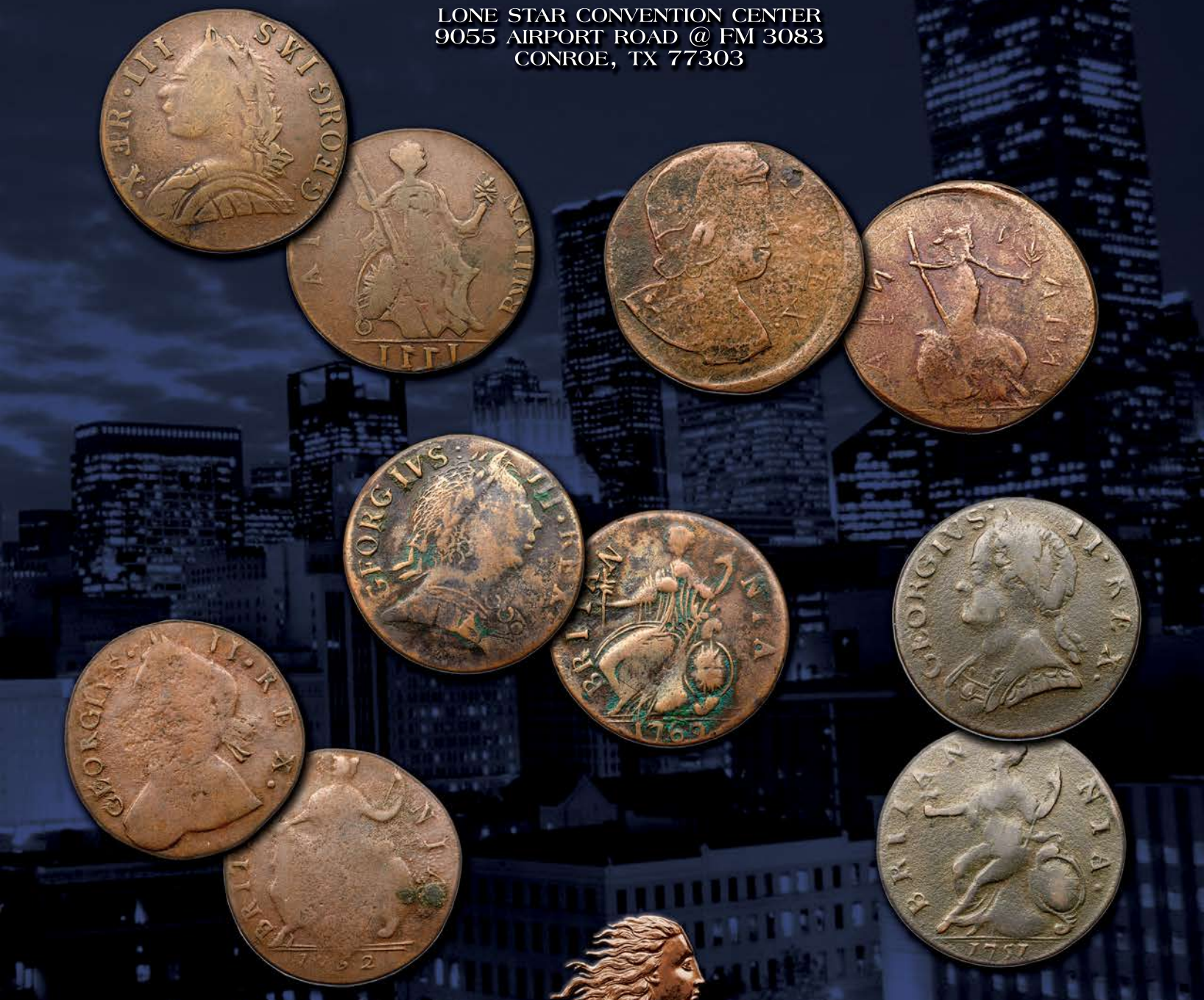
THE OFFICIAL AUCTION OF
THE 67TH ANNUAL HOUSTON MONEY SHOW
featuring the

NEIL ROTHCHILD COLLECTION
OF COUNTERFEIT BRITISH AND IRISH 18TH CENTURY COPPER COINAGE

JANUARY 20TH, 2024
4:00PM

LONE STAR CONVENTION CENTER
9055 AIRPORT ROAD @ FM 3083
CONROE, TX 77303



EARLY CENTS AUCTIONS

EARLY CENTS AUCTIONS

www.earlycentsauctions.com | info@earlycentsauctions.com
P.O. BOX 6400, Austin, TX 78762
Lucas Baldridge, Texas Auctioneer Lic#18106

EARLY CENTS AUCTIONS

Includes the following:

Chris McCawley - EAC member #1394
Consignments and Expert Direction

Bob Grellman - EAC member #575
Grading, Cataloger

Lyle Engleson - EAC member #6888
Photography, Catalog Design, Support

Lucas Baldridge - EAC member #6162
Auctioneer, Shipping and Support

Travis Hollen - EAC member #6329
Shipping and Support

Download our app on

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play

under Early Cents Auctions

AUCTIONS

Scan the QR code to be connected directly to the auction on iCollector

All grades listed in this catalog are done using EAC standard grading by Bob Grellman unless otherwise noted.

For images of coins in holders please see our website at www.earlycentsauctions.com or www.icollector.com



THE OFFICIAL AUCTION OF

THE 67TH ANNUAL HOUSTON MONEY SHOW

Saturday, January 20th, 2024 4:00PM

NEIL ROTHCHILD COLLECTION

OF COUNTERFEIT BRITISH AND IRISH 18TH CENTURY COPPER COINAGE

Location	THE 67th ANNUAL HOUSTON MONEY SHOW LONE STAR CONVENTION CENTER 9055 AIRPORT ROAD @ FM 3083 CONROE, TX. 77303
Lot Viewing	Will be held at our booth Friday, January 19th through Saturday, January 20st During Show hours or by appointment
Questions	Chris McCawley 405-226-5072 cmccawley@aol.com Lucas Baldridge 972-310-9497 friscomint@live.com
Bidding	Live and Pre-Sale bids can be placed at bid.earlycentsauctions.com



EARLY CENTS AUCTIONS
www.earlycentsauctions.com | info@earlycentsauctions.com
P.O. BOX 6400, Austin, TX 78762
Lucas Baldridge, Texas Auctioneer Lic#18106
© 2022 EarlyCentsAuctions

"LiveBidding" at iCollector.com and our app Early Cents Auctions

Enjoy the ability to participate in the auction via internet from the comfort of your home. All you need is the latest version of your browser, such as Google Chrome, Safari or Microsoft Edge. You can watch the sale with audio/video and bid on any lots as its happening "LIVE".

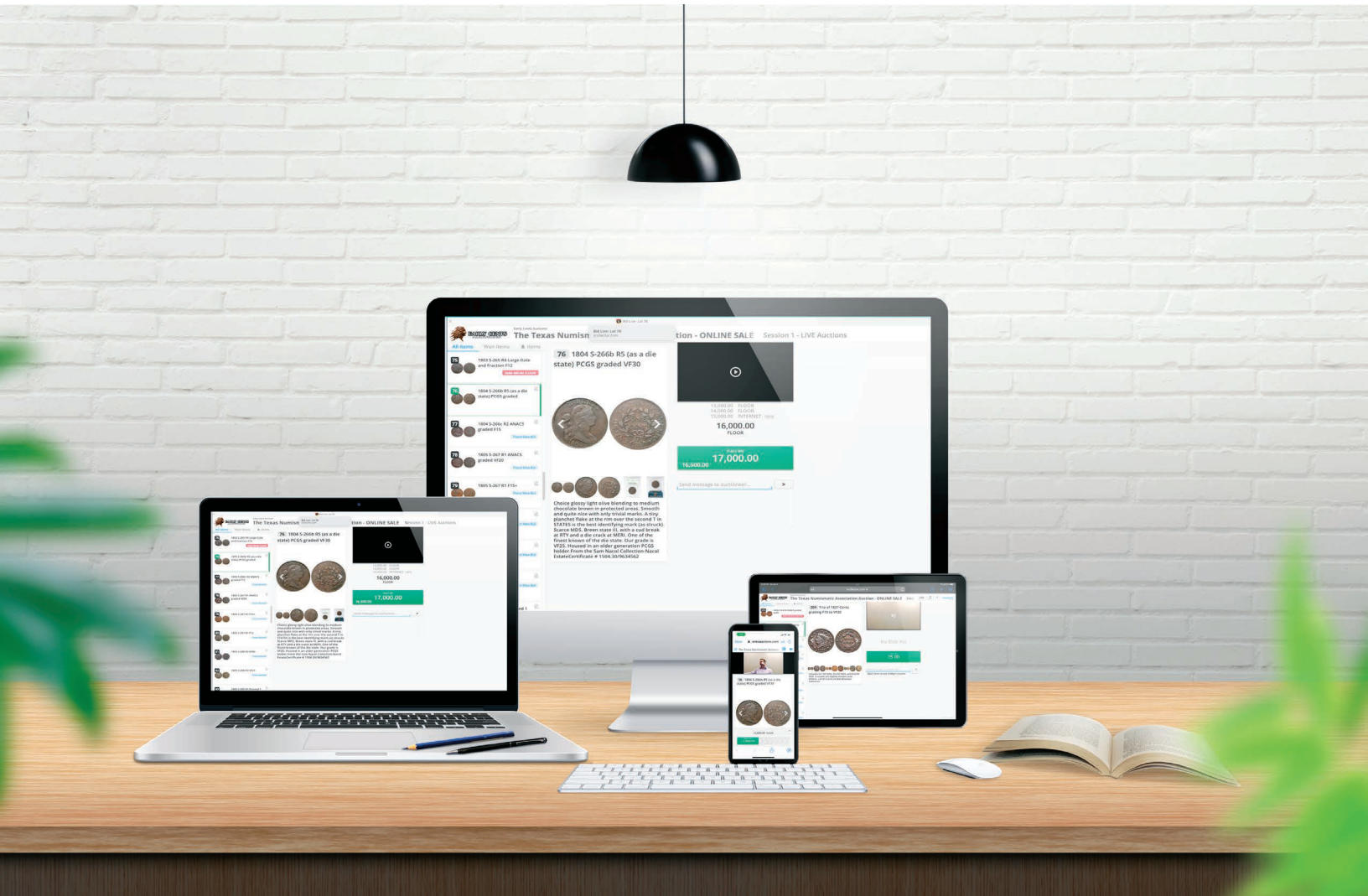
Ebay Store

AUCTIONS

Our app is also available in the App store and Google Play store under Early Cents Auctions. Create watch lists, view images and bid all in one place.
Same Buyers Premium applies.

Download on the App Store

ANDROID APP ON Google play



THE 67TH ANNUAL HOUSTON MONEY SHOW

Saturday, January 20th, 2024 4:00PM

NEIL ROTHCHILD COLLECTION

OF COUNTERFEIT BRITISH AND IRISH 18TH CENTURY COPPER COINAGE

Session Two

COUNTERFEIT BRITISH GEORGE II HALFPENCE ERRORS
lots 1001-1002, pg. 7

COUNTERFEIT BRITISH GEORGE III HALFPENCE ERRORS
lots 1003-1019, pg. 7-12

COUNTERFEIT IRISH HALFPENNY ERROR
lot 1020, pg. 12

COUNTERFEIT BRITISH FARTHING ERRORS
lots 1021-1029, pg. 12-15

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE II BRITISH HALFPENCE
lots 1030-1059, pg. 15-25

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE III BRITISH HALFPENCE
lots 1060-1112 pg. 25-50

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE II IRISH HALFPENCE
lots 1113-1114, pg. 50

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE III IRISH HALFPENCE
lots 1115-1125, pg. 51-55

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE II BRITISH FARTHINGS
lots 1126-1129, pg. 55

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE III BRITISH FARTHINGS
lots 1130-1147, pg. 56-61

BRITISH EVASION COPPERS – HALFPENNY & FARTHING
lots 1148-1160, pg. 62-65

CANADIAN BLACKSMITH TOKENS
lots 1161-1170, pg. 65-67

20% Buyers Premium
(if paying by PayPal an additional 4% will be added to hammer)

Neil Rothschild by Roger Siboni

Neil was a Renaissance man. He pursued so many directions in life, and in every one he achieved a level of subject mastery and skill. Perhaps that is why over the last few decades we spent so much time together; there was always something fascinating going on with Neil.



Besides his enormous contributions to numismatics, Neil founded and led his own software company for decades. He was a great birder, taking some of the most amazing shots ever. Neil was also a seriously accomplished astronomer, specifically an astro-photographer. I can remember one night in particular when figured out the newly discovered Comet Lulin would be streaking by the New York area. We set up out in my backyard on a cold winter night around 1:00 a.m.—telescopes, computers, camera, charts, infra red—and several curious neighbors looking out their bedroom windows! Neil caught Lulin just as it was streaking by Saturn with its rings on display. The shot was later featured in Sky and Telescope!



Or the night he caught every aspect of the total eclipse of the moon. Or that one winter that was so cold that for the first time ever it froze the lagoon in my backyard "almost" solidly. Neil convinced me to go outside with him and take a walk on it. Jack Howes was having no part of it, so he took the picture. But later, Neil convinced Jack too (how many times will we get the chance he said!?!?)

And while Neil was everyone's go-to in the Colonial coin photography world for a few decades, he was everyone's go-to for photography in the Renaissance Fair world, particularly in jousting! I think one of Neil's proudest shots was capturing two mounted jousters, heading full speed at each other. Neil caught the two of them making direct tip to tip contact as the lances exploded into a shower of splinters. I challenge you to find a Renaissance Fair that does not feature one of these images. Neil was also a serious scuba diver, but for health reasons, gave it up in favor of skydiving! So while we have not seen as much of Neil in the past f or 5 years as we used to, he was a busy man.



I first encountered Neil in numismatics "virtually" on the old dial-up Comp U Serve Coin Chat Forum that used to meet on Monday nights when I was still collecting Large cents and was just transitioning into New Jersey Coppers. We always seemed to be the first on and the last off and even then started a little New Jersey vs. Connecticut Copper rivalry. Honestly, I would have never imagined back then, living in California, Neil in Baltimore, chatting "online" that we would have ever ended up becoming the friends we did. But as we both became more immersed in our respective specialties, Neil had every bit as much passion for Connecticuts as I did for New Jersey Coppers. And he soon set about building digitally what Robert Martin had been doing in analog for the past twenty years.

It is no wonder they would soon meet and collaborate for decades, helping to build each other's massive Connecticut resources for the hobby. But Neil brought one more thing. Like everything else, he would get to know virtually every aspect of everything he got involved with. He understood digital cameras and how they interfaced to a laptop and rendered a digital image better than anyone I ever met—in Silicon Valley, Tokyo, or otherwise. So who else to figure out how to take exact real image shots of dark flat metal discs than Neil?

I remember one week I came back to New Jersey from San Francisco with my brand new, one of the very first, hot off the assembly line, 5th Gen Picture iPods. Neil and I spent the following week taking digital photographs of my collection and figuring out how to download them into my Mac. Transfer them into the old iPhoto, straining all the technology and very limited memory of that iPod, downloading the images in there and taking my collection in my shirt-pocket to Baltimore. Quite a stir! Neil was the Colonial collecting community's go to photographer. I would bet more than one in five non-auction house colonial coin pictures in any publication you have seen over the last twenty years was taken by Neil.

Neil was that good. Unfortunately, demand was too high, and Neil was too much of a perfectionist. So output could never keep up with demand and from time to time it frustrated a few. It frustrated Neil too. But how often does perfect come free? We all received so much from Neil. A brightly burning light extinguished far too soon. But a life well lived.

NEIL ROTHCHILD COLLECTION
OF COUNTERFEIT BRITISH AND IRISH 18TH CENTURY COPPER COINAGE

Welcome to our offering of Neil Rothschild's collection of counterfeit British and Irish 18th century copper coinages. I was honored to be asked to catalogue this section of Neil's collection, as Neil was a friend and a customer for a couple decades prior to his untimely passing. Neil wove in and out of the hobby, often making a big splash in one sale and then too busy to even look at the next two or three. Despite not being as omnipresent as some collectors who never missed an auction or price list, Neil still managed to put together a first-rate collection in the series he loved most, the Connecticut coppers. As this was the series I also started with as a collector, there was a bond formed almost immediately, as is nearly always the case when we find one of our own out there in the collecting wilderness. But Neil's tastes extended well beyond the Connecs, as a look at the other offerings of his collection will show.

It was somewhat surprising to me that Neil would have latched on to the counterfeits – and he actually did so a couple years before I got interested in them! But, I think, we did so for the same reasons - they were used in colonial America, and in far greater quantities than any of the state coinages were. Indeed, the economies of the colonies and early states would not have functioned without this ample small change that allowed commerce to go on, despite the occasional public complaining about underweight counterfeit "trash" in circulation. Even more interesting, they were an unexplored area with almost nothing written on them save for a couple introductory articles in The Colonial Newsletter. That lack of publication meant that Neil and all the rest who collected were really doing so blindly - there were no attributions, no rarity ratings, and no idea on how to even price this material. A battle could break out on eBay and a piece would sell for hundreds or even thousands of dollars, while the next example of the same variety in the same general grade could bring half as much...or twice as much. Neil certainly acquired some lower-grade, lower-value pieces on eBay and at coin shows, but he was not afraid to take the plunge into the unknown when something truly special turned up for sale, and he would always be a formidable competitor for such things.

One of those times was the sale of Mike Ringo's 1781 and 1785 counterfeit British halfpence in the 1998 C4 convention sale, which offered what is still the finest collection of these two rare and important dates. Mike and Eric Newman had worked out die-variety attributions, the first two series of counterfeits to get this kind of detailed attention. The article, published in 1988, ensured a wider audience for these two dates, and Newman's byline added scholarly heft to the study of these coins, which had been mostly ignored for over two centuries after they were coin. This was true, even though the article contained a rare major error by Newman, who firmly believed that the 1785's were struck specifically for circulation in North America, and that they were unknown in England. This has proven to be incorrect, and there were more them in British collections as in American - though Americans have paid significant prices to import many of them over in the last twenty-odd years. While the premise of the Newman article was incorrect, the die variety attributions are still good and used today, with the addition of a couple new dies and combinations discovered since the article was written. If Newman were writing it today, with all the information to be had online, he would have doubtless changed his opinion, like any good researcher does when facts contradict theories.

Since the first articles on counterfeits were published in the waning years of the 20th century there has been ample research and publication in The Colonial Newsletter, the Journal of Early American Numismatics,

and The C4 Newsletter. Estimates of the number of individual die varieties for these counterfeits - including George II and George III, farthings and halfpence, and British and Irish pieces - have ranged from 5,000 to over 20,000, though we really won't know until we are done with the work. But even at the lower end of this range the number of counterfeit varieties is more than all the die varieties of every colonial coin, from Sommers Island and Massachusetts silver, all the overlooked series that Syd Martin wrote books on, all the state coinages, Fugio coppers and colonial-era Washingtonia issues, combined. If you've hit the wall or been priced out of some of those other series, these counterfeit coppers are well worth exploring as they remain very affordable and interesting, and major new discoveries are still being made.

This research led to the 2018 publication of the first in what is projected to be a series of books, Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpenny & Farthing Families, published by C4, but as a print-on-demand venture that is available on Amazon, Barnes & Nobles and other sites. This book contains a useful introduction to the series, with an explanation of how pieces formed families, based on direct die sharing, similar styles, and punch linkage. 34 different families were described, with each variety illustrated and showing die linkage, and another 19 families were described and illustrated with a few representative examples, but have not yet had die-variety studies done. The second volume should be out in a couple years, and there are enough families left to discover that there will be additional volumes in this series. In the listings that follow we have given die variety information to most of those families that have actually been published in this first volume, leaving a couple pieces unattributed that will provide good practice for their new owners. When a coin might be a part of a family that has not yet been published, we have noted it as "possibly" – indicating more research needs to be done, but this at least provides a good starting point to explore. This book was a true labor of love –no author or editor made a halfpenny on it, counterfeit or otherwise, and for a 300-page book with a good bulk of those pages being full color illustrations of coins, the price is remarkably low (under $75, postpaid, at this writing).

Like most of us who collect and study these counterfeits, Neil was drawn to the crude and unusual - though at the exact time those started bringing strong money, and with serious competition from others. Despite this, Neil was able to acquire over 200 counterfeits, some of which are very special. When looking at his collection I get the sense that this is exactly what the good Doctors Maris and Hall would have done a century and a half earlier, acquiring New Jersey and Connecticut coppers in the years before the Crosby book provided at least a starting point for those series. There have been only a handful of sales with specialized offerings of contemporary British and Irish counterfeits, starting with some smaller offerings in a couple C4 auctions which were mainly from the Bill Anton collection, the extensive Mike Ringo collection sold in a number of installments by Stack's beginning in 2008, and, more recently, the offering of better pieces from the Syd Martin collection. This group from the Neil Rothschild collection will join these other notable offerings from the collections of friends who have left us all too soon. I would personally like to thank Chris McCawley for not only photographing every piece, but allowing me the space to catalogue them in a way that does justice to the whole collection, even when a longer lot description might not have been the best option from a strictly financial point of view - this is the kind of dedication to the hobby that Chris has long shown, and we are all better for it. I also thank Bob Metzger who did the initial pass through the collection, identifying families and drawing attention to special pieces. We have left these in Neil's envelopes, but do note that the information on them is often 25 years old and much is now incorrect or obsolete.

Our offering begins with the major striking errors that Neil collected and clearly enjoyed, and proceeds by country, ruler, and denomination, each in date order.

Jeff Rock

COUNTERFEIT BRITISH GEORGE II HALFPENCE ERRORS:



LOT 1001 Undated George II Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Obverse Brockage, Flat Struck Family. 72.0 grains. Fine, this family named for the general look of the devices on either side, commonly thought to have been purposely done to simulate long wear though, realistically, it could have been due to insufficient striking pressure on very thin planchets, which usually weigh less than half the weight of a regal coin, and from die dies that were engraved very deeply. Full legend on the struck obverse, the tops of letters a bit weak, the legend on the brockage side a bit weaker, but the brockage of the bust is strong. Medium brown, light marks including an old scratch on the struck bust. This family was prone to striking errors, which did not seem to stop them from being accepted in circulation, as many of them are quite well worn.

Purchased from the late Mike Ringo, and in his distinct handwritten envelope.



LOT 1002 Undated George II Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Double Struck, Flat Struck Family. 70.6 grains. Fine, an interesting double struck example, the first strike was normally centered, while the second strike was wildly off-center, with a nearly complete bust overlapping and partially obscuring the GEORGIVS legend and the face on the bust of the original strike. The reverse does not show a similar off-center second strike, but does have curious depressed areas at the top and center, which may indicate the second strike on this side was actually a partial brockage as well, which was flattened out during the second strike There is a die break at the reverse branch which may allow a date to be ascertained when this family is published. Light olive, a few minor planchet flaws and marks from circulation, but a coin with good eye appeal.

From the first C4 auction in 1995, where this was Lot 610.

COUNTERFEIT BRITISH GEORGE III HALFPENCE ERRORS:

TAILS YOU LOSE - STRUCK WITH TWO REVERSE DIES, OF DIFFERENT DATES



LOT 1003 1770/1771 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Struck with Double Reverses. 111.2 grains. Fine to Very Fine, a rare error where the counterfeiter loaded two reverse dies into the press – and they each had different dates! The dies were clearly made by the same hand or at least at the same shop, showing a distinct curved branch, and the N's with an exaggerated lower serif. But, in a caution against relying too much on just punch linkage, we note that the I on one side is topless, but not on the other, and the 7's in the date are very different between each die, those on the 1770 with a distinct arc to the top, those on the 1771 side done with a flat top. The fact that there were two dates and no obverse did not hinder the coins circulation, as both sides show sustained wear, and though there are light marks and a few old scratches, the surfaces are a pleasing medium brown. Double reverse strikes are a bit rarer than those with double obverses (one of those is offered later in this section), but both types are known, and from a surprising number of different die pairings, so the mistake seems to have happened to different counterfeiters, and at different times. While this kind of error could have been made as "mint sport," it was more likely accidentally done. Most of these double obverse or double reverse varieties have just one or two examples extant, and it was likely the mistakes were caught early and corrected. Some did enter circulation, as did this example, but many of this type of error exist in high grade, suggesting that they were saved as an oddity from nearly the beginning.

The recent sale of the first of Syd Martin's counterfeits included a similar double reverse error which also had two different dates, 1774 and 1775.



LOT 1004 1774 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Double Struck. 114.0 grains. Fine, a boldly double struck example from a family that has not yet been researched or published, the coin of fairly good size and workmanship. The original strike was centered, the second strike about 25% off center and slightly rotated, and obliterating the peripheral legend of the original strike. There are however two full 1774 dates, always a bonus on multi-struck coins. Lovely milk chocolate brown, the surfaces hard. There is an old dent at the center reverse and a few light circulation marks, but this is a pleasing error coin.

From the 1999 C4 auction, where this was Lot 510.

AN EXCITING SIMIAN REVERSE BROCKAGE



LOT 1005 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Reverse Brockage, Simian Family. 76.8 grains. Choice Very Fine., from the very popular Simian Family, named for the ape-like pole arm often seen on the British style reverses, here displayed in wonderful knuckle-dragging length, especially in comparison to the very short arm that holds the branch. Full legend, the date strong and nearly all on the planchet, and the brockage side just as sharp, indicating that it was one of the first brockages made when a previously struck coin failed to eject from the press and adhered to the obverse die instead. Chocolate brown, choice for the grade, and a stunning error. The Simian family is quite large, with counterfeits known of British and Irish halfpence of George II and George III, British farthings of George II and George III (and even halfpence of William III), and there are a number of errors from the family, though few are as sharp as this.

Purchased from the late Mike Ringo, in his distinct handwritten envelope.



LOT 1006 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Reverse Brockage, Young Head Family. 108.8 grains. Very Fine, another pleasing brockage, from a large family that was also prone to error strikes. The struck side is sharp with the legend and date full and good detail in the seated Britannia, while the brockage legend is strong, the central figure slightly less sharp. Medium brown, pleasing to the eye, despite a number of ancient hairlines on the brockage side.

From the first C4 sale, where this was Lot 615, and in the original Mike Ringo envelope this was sold in.

A DOUBLE STRUCK SIMIAN WITH BRITAN NIN REVERSE ERROR!



LOT 1007 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Double Struck, Simian Family. 91.7 grains. Choice Very Fine, a bold example, the first strike was normally centered, the second strike about 40% off-center towards 7:00. The second strike obliterated the GEOR of the original strike, while there are two sets of III REX and two nearly-complete busts. The reverse has the same centering, but the second strike did not obliterate any of the legend, and the original BRITAN is strong at the left, while the center shows two sets of Simian arms and shields, and the last two digits of the date. More special, this is a scarce variety that has an engraving error on the reverse, with the second part of the legend reading NIN instead of NIA, the whole word thus being BRITANNIN. The present coin shows two bold sets of the NIN error. This type of error is a minor legend fault – the engraver forgetting whether he was engraving the first or last letter of the NIA legend, and once done it was not worth the effort to go back and correct. That error does not make this an evasion copper, even though the legend is "incorrect." There are American state coinages with similar legend faults – and there are actually a couple regal British halfpence, made at the Tower Mint, that also have legend errors, and no one has ever claimed them as evasion coppers. Lovely chocolate brown with minor marks from circulation, but a really stunning coin – an error legend and error strike, all in one!



LOT 1008 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Double Struck, Linear Design Family. 121.5 grains. Choice Very Fine, a bold double strike, the second strike about 25% off-center towards 7:00, and slightly rotated. The original legends at the left were mostly erased by the second strike, though there are two sets of ordinals on the obverse, and two full dates on the reverse. The Linear Design family has not yet been published, and while similar in style to the Young Heads, though the hair strands on the obverse bust and the dress that Britannia wears are made up of deeply cut lines of the sort a caricaturist would use. The reverse shields on this family are also often squared-off and a bit lopsided in appearance. Choice light brown, the surfaces hard and with minimal marks, which make for a lovely, eye-catching major error.

Purchased in 1998 from another departed friend, Don Valenziano.



LOT 1009 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Double Struck, Young Head Family. 76.7 grains. Fine, a centered first strike with the second strike about 20% off-center towards 8:00, the second strike erasing the original legends at the left on either side. There are two sets of ordinals on the obverse and two full dates on the reverse, always popular with collectors as such. Medium brown, lightly rough and with some scattered marks on the reverse, as well as an ancient dent below the branch hand. The off-center strike shows the edges of the die and the curious gear-like denticles, details that are seldom seen on coins of this family since the dies were larger than the planchets normally used.

Purchased from Tom Rinaldo at the 1995 ANA Convention.



LOT 1010 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Double Struck, Young Head Family, subtype with Closed G's in GEORGIVS. 103.7 grains. Very Fine, an unusual piece in that the obverse appears to have received just a single strike, which is perfectly centered, while the reverse has a bold second strike about 60% off-center towards 2:00. The corresponding area on the obverse shows light flattening of REX, and it may be that the double strike on this side was from a brockage maker which had flattened out, and thus not imparting any image or lettering on this side. The obverse legend is full, while NIA is lost on the reverse to the second strike, BRITAN from the original strike and BRIT from the second are visible, as are two full dates. Medium brown, hard surfaces with a few light flaws and an old scratch down through the obverse bust's face, as well as a few other hairlines.

From the 1995 C4 sale, where this was Lot 613.



LOT 1011 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Triple Struck, Young Head Family, subtype with Closed G's in GEORGIVS. 102.8 grains. Fine, a most unusual piece which was triple struck – though each side only shows two of those strikes! The first strike was perfectly centered, and the legends are mostly full from this strike, with the ITA of BRITAN weaker than the rest but partially visible at least. The second strike was about 15% off-center towards 11:00, which does not show on the obverse, but is clear on the reverse as a partial second date and pole arm higher than those on the original strike. The third strike does not show at all on the reverse, but is about 50% off-center towards 3:00 on the obverse, with GEOR over the middle of the head of the original strike, and a set of ribbons over the original face. We will leave it to the new owner to try and figure out the mechanics of how this all happened – and whether it was something made for mint sport, or a complex series of errors culminating in this finished product. Medium brown, light marks as expected for the grade, but none serious.

Purchased from Ton Rinaldo at the 1995 C4 Convention.

ANOTHER NICE SIMIAN REVERSE BROCKAGE



LOT 1012 1775 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Reverse Brockage, Simian Family. 86.8 grains. Very Fine, a sharp reverse brockage, both the original and brockage strikes off-center towards 4:00, cutting the bottom of the date off the planchet; this is a known 1775 Simian reverse, so even though only the tops of the digits are visible, the date is certain. The seated figure has an impossibly long arm holding the pole, one that would hang off the edge of the coin if she straightened it out, and a very square shield at her side. Both the struck and brockage sides show strong design detail. Chocolate brown, the planchet with light roughness but still attractive, the wow factor amplified by the error being on such a crude Simian variety.

Purchased from Mike Ringo, and still in his distinct handwritten envelope – while Mike did sell duplicates, it was rare for him to part with major errors like this.



LOT 1013 1776 Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Double Struck, Georgius Triumpho Family. 112.7 grains. Fine, sharper in terms of details, the surfaces lightly rough. A minor double strike, rotated about 5% from the original, which serves to partially double some of the legends and date – less dramatic at first glance than some of the other double struck pieces in this offering, but interesting when looked at under a glass. The Georgius Triumpho (or GT) family has been linked to the 1783-dated Washington piece of that same name (Baker 7), and appears to be a very large family with many subtypes within, some of which have already been carved out as distinct families of their own. While not yet researched, most pieces from this family have berries on the reverse branch, a very distinct feature that rarely appears on any other counterfeit family. Mike Ringo wrote up his findings on the GT family in the 100th issue of The Colonial Newsletter, which is well worth rereading today (and available free on the Newman Numismatic Portal). Dark tan, the surfaces lightly rough as noted, with a good-sized planchet flaw at the obverse bust's throat.

A very scarce date, one in which no genuine British halfpence were coined. Neil purchased this coin from MikeRingo in 1995, and it is still in his distinct handwritten envelope.

A LOVELY SPIKED CHIN FAMILY OBVERSE BROCKAGE



LOT 1014 Undated (i.e. 1771) Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Obverse Brockage, Spiked Chin Family. 103.0 grains. Choice Extremely Fine. While obverse brockages generally cannot be assigned a date, the Spiked Chin Family (named for the diebreak extending from the chin on most examples, including this one) is so far only known dated 1771 – though because there is no date on this, most collectors will keep something like this with their unknown date coins. Gorgeous chocolate brown, glossy and hard surfaces with minimal marks, the only major one being a planchet flaw on the brockage side. While a small family of just two varieties, both of which are reasonably scarce, there are a surprising number of major errors known, including a dozen or more brockage strikes (six of which are illustrated in this chapter of the book), as well as a handful of multi-struck pieces; clearly whoever was responsible for these possessed little experience in coining, faulty equipment, or a combination of the two. The Spiked Chin family consists of a single obverse die (in three states of the diebreak) and a single reverse that was radically recut and altered, with its appearance changed enough that it was long thought to be two different dies. While one of the more-available of brockage errors, this is a lovely example, and may well have been saved at the time by someone who appreciated its oddity.



LOT 1015 Undated (1771) Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Obverse Brockage, Spiked Chin Family. 96.5 grains. Very Good, another obverse brockage from this family, and one that was certainly not saved shortly after being made, as it has seen extensive use in circulation, though that wear is clean and even, and the light brown planchet has minimal marks. Only RGIVS is visible for the obverse legend, while the brockage side shows more detail (being incuse, it would not have worn as quickly as the other side). From a middle die state of the obverse "spike."

From the 1995 C4 Convention auction, where this was Lot 620, and in a handwritten Mike Ringo envelope.



LOT 1016 Undated Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Obverse Brockage, Coin Z Family. 113.4 grains. Fine or a bit better, the legend full on the struck side save the E of REX which is lost to a small dent, with a few other dents around the tip of the bust, as well as a few other marks from circulation. Medium brown, cleanly worn, the brockage side occasionally showing more detail than the struck one. The Coin Z Family, named because an example was illustrated in C. Wilson Peck's work on British coins as one of four counterfeits (with plate numbers W, X, Y, and Z), is related to the Georgius Triumpho family, but is distinct enough to be handled as its own family; the somewhat stern king with a double chin is an easy pick up point for this family, which should be published in the second volume of the counterfeit series.

From the 2003 C4 Convention sale, where this was Lot 592.



LOT 1017 Undated Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Obverse Brockage. 82.4 grains. Fine, an obverse brockage from a family not yet published or researched, though this die is distinct due to a diebreak from the chin to the neck on the obverse bust, giving the look of a bridle or more fitting for royalty of the time, a goiter. There are several brockages known of this exact obverse, which again suggests an inexperienced coiner responsible for their production. While circulated, the wear is even; the first three letters of the struck side's legend are weak, the rest stronger, though the tops of some are off the planchet. Lighter brown, both sides with hairline scratches.

Purchased from Tom Rinaldo in 1995.



LOT 1018 Undated Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Reverse Brockage, Young Head Family. 64.3 grains. Very Good, heavily worn, the brockage side showing far more detail than the struck side, and more attractive as well. Medium brown, the struck side uniformly rough, the brockage side lighter and smoother. A common family for errors, and usually one of the lightest-weight families (along with the Simians), here light enough that it would actually be under acceptable regal weight for a farthing! An affordable, major error.

Purchased from Tom Rinaldo in 1995.

A DOUBLE-HEADER, STRUCK FROM TWO DIFFERENT OBVERSE DIES



LOT 1019 Undated Counterfeit British Halfpenny, Struck with Double Obverses. 138.6 grains. Choice Extremely Fine, a boldly struck example of a seldom-seen error, a coin struck from two obverse dies. While most "double headers" are actually made from two different coins that were ground down and joined together, real examples of this error can also be created in the striking process. The first way is through a brockage adhering to one die and acting like a die itself, that type of error has both sides from the same die, albeit the one struck from the brockage a bit flatter and weaker. The second method, found on the coin offered here, is both more rare and interesting, struck from two very different obverse dies that were (likely) inadvertently put into a press, instead of an obverse and a reverse die. Double reverse strikes are also known, one is offered earlier in this sale. Neither obverse die found on this coin is currently part of a published family, but both are known, one side with a heavy die break through the final ordinal and other smaller breaks, the other with a rounded "goiter" below the lips, halfway down an improbably large chin, and a die break closing the bottom of the R of GEORGIVS (this obverse is also known on a brockage strike in a private collection). While this is an error that didn't happen often there are, amazingly, over a dozen different varieties of struck double obverse die pieces known, and slightly fewer different varieties of double reverses coins. Most of these double obverse or double reverse varieties have just one or two examples extant, and it was likely that the mistakes were caught early and corrected. Some did enter circulation, and a couple are quite well-worn, showing that people didn't look at their pocket change too closely at the time – perhaps because they knew that 3/4 or more of their coppers were going to be counterfeit anyway! But many of this type of error do exist in high grade, suggesting that they were saved as an oddity from nearly the beginning. The planchet on this one is particularly robust, approaching the weight of a regal coin. Deep tan, the surfaces glossy, though the centers of each side show roughness, and a few light marks, including a scratch on the cheek of one side, and light spotting. A very special coin from the Rothschild collection.

COUNTERFEIT IRISH HALFPENNY ERROR:



LOT 1020 1769 Counterfeit Irish Halfpenny, Double Struck. 112.4 grains. Fine, sporting a tab double strike at 9:00 on the obverse, which does little more than distort the legend on that side, while on the reverse the tab is sharp, showing an A. from HIBERNIA., as well as the denticles above. Evenly worn light brown, with the expected marks for the grade, the reverse with a cluster of light nicks at the crown. Major striking errors on Irish coins are rarer that their British counterparts, and this is the only Irish striking error in Neil's collection. While few Irish families have been explored yet, the 6 and 9 of the date on this may have started life as O's, with the tails added by hand to the die.

COUNTERFEIT BRITISH FARTHING ERRORS:



LOT 1021 Undated George II Counterfeit Farthing, Obverse Brockage. 46.0 grains. Very Good, a well-used example from a family that has not yet been published or researched. This style of obverse bust, with very short ribbons, is most often found on 1736-dated counterfeit farthings, though other dates with this bust style are known. The lack of a reverse certainly did not hinder the circulation of this coin, and its tan surfaces show the marks expect from usage, but none are serious. Farthing errors are certainly rarer than their halfpenny counterparts, and major errors on the George II pieces are rarer still.

Purchased from Mike Ringo in 1995, and still in his handwritten envelope.



LOT 1022 Undated George II Counterfeit Farthing, Double Struck, Simian Family. 21.8 grains. Very Good, the obverse weak at the center, the reverse stronger, the peripheral legends on either side weak, though two sets of RGIVS can be seen on the obverse and the seated Britannia figure appears to have three upper legs. While the date cannot be completely made out, it appears to be 177 for the first three digits and, if so, this would then be a mule with a George II obverse and a George III reverse. The Simian farthings should be published in the second volume of the counterfeit book series, and the winner of this coin should be able to attribute it then. George II Simian errors, whether mules or not, are rare, and though low grade, this is a coin that will interest specialists.



LOT 1023 1773 Counterfeit British Farthing, Double Struck. 41.7 grains. Fine to Very Fine, the second strike about 25% off-center towards 1:00, with the expected loss of legend from the second strike. On the obverse there are two sets of GEORG, and part of III from the first strike. The reverse has two sets of IA from NIA, and a few traces of letters from BRITAN, but also sports two full dates, with the final digit larger than the others and showing die spalling in the area as well. Lighter brown, a few marks from circulation, none unexpected for the grade. No counterfeit farthing families were explored in the first volume of the counterfeit book series, though we expect some to be included in the second.

From the 1995 C4 Convention auction, where this was Lot 602.



LOT 1024 1773 Counterfeit British Farthing, Reverse Brockage. 42.0 grains. Fine, a well-circulated brockage, showing that in times of scarce small change, anything would circulate. The RIT of BRITAN is weak on both the struck and brockage side, likely do more to die failure in that area than strike or wear. The seated figure is sharp for the grade, and the coin displays its error nicely. Medium brown, trivial marks from circulation.

Purchased from Mike Ringo at the 1995 C4 Convention, and still in his handwritten envelope.



LOT 1025 1774 Counterfeit British Farthing Double Struck. 38.2 grains. Fine, struck medal turn, which is more commonly seen on Topless Ordinals Family farthings, but this does not appear to be from that family. Well struck – twice! – the first strike centered, the second about 20% off-center towards the south obverse and east reverse. This gives two bows and a tangled set of ribbons on the obverse bust and a second AN of BRITAN below the original on the reverse, the date from the second strike the only one visible, with the first two digits half off the planchet the other two all on. Medium brown, the surfaces hard, pleasing, and with minimal marks.

A nice error, purchased from Mike Ringo in 1995.



LOT 1026 1775 Counterfeit British Farthing, Double Struck, Simian Family. 19.7 grains. Fine or so, with the usual flattening of details from the second strike, the coin bent and straightened at some point. The first strike was normally centered, the second towards 7:00, with the obverse showing a full set of ordinals and the denticles above in that tab, while the reverse tab has no discernible detail. Medium brown, the planchet with few marks other than the bends mentioned – at under 20 grains, or less than half the weight of the three previous counterfeit farthings, you could literally bend this just using thumb and forefinger! The Simians tend to weigh significantly less than most other counterfeits families, and this weight – very close to one-fifth what a regal farthing would weigh – yielding quite the profit margin the first time it was circulated.

From the 1999 C4 Convention Auction, where this was Lot 521.



LOT 1027 1775 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Tab Double Strike, Simian Family. 20.0 grains. Fine, a minor error on a very difficult denomination and type to find errors on. The first strike was centered normally, though somewhat weak at the top of both sides; this is struck medal turn instead of the normal coin turn. Struck again as a tab double strike at the lower right reverse towards 5:00, though with nothing imparted from the dies save for the tab shape. The 5 in the date is the only number that can be read, and these dies have been matched to a known 1775 Simian farthing. While not the most exciting error in this offering, any error on a Simian farthing is going to pique collector interest.



LOT 1028 1775 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Double Struck. 32.2 grains. Very Fine detail, with post-strike damage. An interesting piece, the double strike not immediately obvious, as the first strike was about 50% off center and weak, while the second strike was centered and much bolder, erasing much of that original strike around the peripheries. What looks like a gouge on the king's cheek is actually a curl from the hair on the original strike – though here appearing both backwards and incuse, a mystery for the next owner to solve. The reverse double strike is easier to see, with the original head of Britannia nestled into the shoulder on the branch arm side, and the shoulder of the original flowing almost seamlessly into the drapery of the second strike. Medium olive brown, the surfaces hard. There is a post-strike cut at the left obverse, where it appears someone first made a small v-shaped cut taking out a bit of the edge, then a deep cut from there which did not completely go through the planchet (and since it is on both sides and of equal length it is a cut and not a blow from an axe but rather something like heavy shears).



LOT 1029 Undated Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Obverse Brockage. 44.8 grains. Choice Very Fine, a boldly struck example, from a family that has not yet been published or studied, but a style seen on counterfeit farthings dated 1773-5, the king with a large and squared-off jawline. The struck obverse and brockage obverse are equally bold, with the design details crisp in both versions, the legend strong. Attractive medium brown, with just trivial circulation marks, and a first-rate example of a farthing error.

From Mike Ringo and still in his handwritten envelope, earlier in the collection of the first fulltime colonial dealer, Richard Picker, and sold in the Coin Galleries May 1989 sale of his errors and oddities, where this was Lot 1151.

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE II BRITISH HALFPENCE:

RARE 1731 SMALL DATE



LOT 1030 1731 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny. 94.2 grains. Very Fine, a shallowly-struck, example of a scarce date, this likely all the detail that was in the dies. The obverse design detail is passably good, the lettering less so, with the second ordinal high and tilted in relation to the first. The reverse figure on this type usually holds the branch in her hand, but here it is being grasped by perhaps one fingertip at best, almost out of her hand completely. The date is small and crudely formed, the first digit small, the last digit has been assumed to be a 1, though it does not look the same as the first digit, and was either cut into the die backwards, or possibly meant to be a 5 instead, with the lower loop off the planchet; this is less likely as the number would have been quite large, nearly twice the size as the numbers before it. A few letters show repunching, and there are two near vertical diebreaks behind the obverse effigy's head. Very pleasing medium brown, the surfaces hard, the reverse showing the original planchet quality at the seated figure's torso. Struck from the same dies as the example in Stack's May 2008 Minot sale, lot 188, which realized nearly $500 in spirited bidding at the first auction to contain a good run of counterfeits after the runaway prices at the first of the Ringo sales held in January of that year. Very few of this die pairing have been seen, and it does not appear to be tied to any known family.



LOT 1031 1733 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Simian Family, Dies 5-33A. 80.4 grains. Fine, weakly struck at the upper right obverse and central reverse, with loss of detail there. The legends are full, some of the letters at the right weaker than the rest. The obverse bust has strong mailing, but is weak at the rear of his head, a situation reminiscent of many Connecticut coppers. The seated reverse figure is mostly gone from the neck down, a combination of weak strike and planchet pitting there. The unusual date is mostly on the planchet; this has been called 1733/1777, but as it was hand engraved (as are all details on Simian family dies), it was likely just oddly shaped 3's. Neil's envelope is a good case study in waiting for research before making any claims of rarity (one reason there are no rarity ratings assigned to the coins in this offering) - on the envelope it was claimed to be a R-7+ variety, whereas it has proven to be one of the two or three most available of the George II Simians! This family was plated in the first volume of the counterfeit book series, with all then-known die varieties illustrated.



LOT 1032 1733 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny. 107.2 grains. Fine, a struck example, possibly from the Quill Pen Family, which has not been fully researched or written up, and which uses large letter punches and unusual date figures as seen here. The branch on this one is not the typical Quill Pen type, and looks more like the sad Christmas tree that Charlie Brown brought home. The obverse is choice for the grade, and there is a small "horn" diebreak extending from George's forehead. The reverse has a swarm of roughness extending from the TA of BRITAN, down over much of the seated figure's upper body, otherwise the surfaces are a nice medium brown. A piece certainly worth further study.



LOT 1033 1734 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Curly Haired George Family. 121.0 grains. Very Fine, a boldly struck example of a scarce family, which had a summary chapter (an introduction and illustration of some types, but not a complete variety listing) in the first volume of the counterfeit book series. This variety has a rather simple-looking king with curly hair, deeply engraved into the die, as is the reverse figure with an especially bulbous looking shield. Medium brown, the surfaces hard, but with myriad ancient hairline scratches on either side. This family is known dated 1729 (a year no regal coins were minted), 1734, 1739, 1741, and 1749. This 1734 variety was not one of the coins depicted in the Curly Haired George chapter, and while it is too early to formulate exact rarity ratings, the entire family has proven to be rather scarce.



LOT 1034 1737 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Flat Struck Family. 71.6 grains. Very Fine, a pleasing example from this plentiful family which comes dated in the 1730s and 1750s – as well as in the 1770s, muling George II obverses with George III-dated reverses. While the devices are weak as expected for a family with this name, the legends and date are full, the 3 in the date notably smaller than the other numerals. Pleasing medium brown, the surfaces hard, and with just minor circulation marks. This family ties together both with die pairing as well as stylistically, with very similar looking busts and seated figures, and the same or very similar letter punches. Very few show any sort of detail other than a hint of George's facial features, and this is likely a combination of deeply engraved dies and very thin planchets (usually, like this one, well under half of regal weight) which did not have enough metal to flow into those dies.



LOT 1035 1738 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Ogle Eye Family, Dies 1-38(a). 71.6 grains. Fine, a bit sharper than this in areas, weaker at the centers. The legends are full, NIA a bit weaker than the rest but all there, and the date bold at the base of the reverse. The unusual bust with its large protruding eye (thus the family name) has strong facial features and armor, but is weak at his hair. The seated figure is fully outlined, the shield weak but the rest strong, especially the branch. Lighter brown, the obverse with hard surfaces, the reverse with light roughness, and both sides with light hairline scratches and marks typical for a copper coin that was well-used in commerce. A very scarce mule, using a more generic looking reverse than normal for the Ogle Eyes, which is one of the families detailed in the first volume of the counterfeit series, complete with illustrations of all known die varieties.



LOT 1036 1739 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Simian Family, Dies 2-39A. 75.2 grains. Very Good, about half the legends visible on either side, the date strong save the final digit which is a tad weaker but visible. Design details as expected for the grade, the distinct reverse with her ape-like arm appearing to be reclining a bit. Dark olive, the surfaces with light roughness and the expected marks from circulation, the obverse with some old scratches. This is the only 1739-dated Simian reverse die, and it was also paired with a George III Simian obverse, making an unusual mule. The crudeness of the hand-engraved dies have made the Simian family popular with collectors, and the publication of excellent die-variety plates has made the George II British group even more sought after.



LOT 1037 1739 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny. 100.2 grains. Very Good, weakly struck at the centers, though not a coin that is from the Flat Struck Family. The legends and date are full, the central devices at least outlined, save for Britannia's head, which is mostly indistinct, though the unusual branch in her hand is strong. Light brown, minor marks but overall clean for the grade. Very few George II families have been studied, and it is unknown whether this variety will be found to belong to a larger group. One of the nice things about the series is that there is still so much research to do, and discoveries to be made.

THE VERY RARE 1740 "SKULLCAP" COUNTERFEIT, AN UNLISTED BIG BIRD FAMILY MEMBER



LOT 1038 1740 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Big Bird Family, Unlisted Variety. 116.8 grains. Very Fine overall, the obverse weaker as struck, the reverse strong in that grade. GEO is not visible on the obverse, while the rest of the legends on either side are there, a few reverse letters weaker than their neighbors, but visible. The all-important date is strong and fully on the planchet, 1740 being an extremely rare year for struck counterfeits. The obverse bust is weak and very flatly struck, with apparent die failure at the neck area, while the reverse is bold, the design mostly of deeply-cut but simplistic strokes. Medium brown, two reverse punch marks on the branch arm and just below it show through as minor raised areas on the obverse, otherwise the coin has just the expected light marks from circulation. A very curious piece, with a distinct and unusual look. When the Ringo specimen was sold in the first sale of his counterfeits in January 2008 the cataloguer thought the King appeared bald, while later collectors have thought he was wearing a skullcap. What we all missed is that the letter punches exactly match those used in the Big Bird Family (which was published in the first volume of the counterfeit book series), and the branch design matches two of the then three known reverses – the reason it was not obvious for a decade and a half was that the Big Bird varieties then known all used George III obverses. Other families suffered from this same myopia, and George II obverses have since been found in the Topless Ordinals and Lanky Letters families, and we suspect there will be others found as well. Other than the Ringo coin we have seen just three or four others – the Ringo coin is in a very late reverse die state, with heavy die spalling covering much of the branch and arm, and that may explain the rarity of the variety today. This variety was not present in the sale of counterfeits from the Syd Martin collection earlier this year.



LOT 1039 1748 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Ogle Eye Family, Dies 2-48B. 86.2 grains. Choice Fine, some details closer to VF. Full legend save the N of BRITAN, the tops of GE of GEORGIVS and the bottom of the date off the planchet as centered. The distinct obverse bust with protruding eye is reasonably sharp at the face and some of the mailing, weak at the hair; the same weakness affects the globe and central part of the seated figure on the reverse. Light brown, a small planchet flaw in front of the king's throat, no other marks of import. When first noted as a family it was thought there were only a few members, but there are just over 20 die varieties within it, including some mules that include George III dates (one of these mules, dated 1738, is offered above). Those mules, as well as the very thin planchet stock used on this family, show that these were made far later than the George II years, and likely in the 1790s, in the half decade or so before Matthew Boulton's Soho Mint coinage was released in quantity.



LOT 1040 1748 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Ogle Eye Family, Dies 4-48D. 80.0 grains. Fine, another variety from this family. The obverse legend full, BRITAN weak on the reverse with the final two letters missing, NIA and the date strong. Evenly worn, the ogling eye on the obverse not visible, but the family and die variety are certain. Medium brown, scattered light marks consistent with the grade. The publication of this die variety information has led to increased interest from collectors pursuing the individual varieties,



LOT 1041 1751 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Defiant Head Family, Dies 8-51E. 120.2 grains. Choice Very Fine, a pleasing example from an intriguing family, one that was published in the first counterfeit volume. Well struck, the legends and design details all sharp. Struck from a later reverse die state with a break forming between the RI of BRITAN. Pleasing chocolate brown, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, with just minimal marks from circulation. The Defiant Head family is one that is very stylistically similar, with a distinct bust style that led to the family name, as well as a reverse figure whose head often seems out of proportion to her body. Coins from this family are all of the George II type, and generally weight within 20% of regal, and there are no mules to other families, or with George III dies, which strongly suggests these were made early, possibly even within George II's reign. This is further supported by most examples being well-worn and, unlike some of the later-made families, we have not seen a truly Uncirculated Defiant Head..



LOT 1042 1751 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Defiant Head Family, Dies 11-51B. 130.0 grains. Fine, another coin from the Defiant Head family, though from different dies than the above, but showing the strong stylistic similarities mentioned. The legends and date are full, the obverse design details stronger than the grade assigned. Darker brown, the surfaces with a light, even roughness that isn't too bad.

From the first C4 sale in 1994, where this appeared as Lot 566, where it was graded a full VF, though we think it just misses that mark. No lot ticket from that sale, but easily plate matched.



LOT 1043 1751 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Flat Struck Family. 67.2 grains. Fine, likely better than that grade level from a standpoint of wear but, as the family name implies, the central devices are flatly struck – due both to dies that may not have had much finer detail engraved into them and very thin planchet stock which limited the amount of metal to fill those dies. Legends and date are full, the design details fully outlined. Lighter brown, the surfaces hard but with some large reverse scratches that are toned down to the surface color. This one weighs in at almost half that of the Defiant Head in the preceding lot, which tells us that it was likely made far later than the date it bears – a theory supported by there being several mules using Flat Struck George II obverses with reverses dated 1771, a year in George III's reign, one of which is offered below.



LOT 1044 1752 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Defiant Head Family, Dies 6-52A. 125.0 grains. Very Fine detail, with full legends, date, and sharp design detail. Medium brown, the rims a bit banged up and the obverse with some pitting, most notably at the upper right and lower periphery, the reverse with much better surfaces and eye appeal. Not bad at all for a member of this interesting family.



LOT 1045 1752 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Simian Family, Dies 18-52C. 76.2 grains. Fine, very weakly struck at the center of the obverse, due in part to a massive reverse cud that literally sucked the metal away from flowing into the deepest part of the obverse die. The legends and date are full, the king's face and central section of the seated Britannia both weak, the latter with a large cud extending from the bottom of the branch to her knees. Light brown, the weak part of the obverse showing the original rougher surface quality of the planchet, and with a spot of raised gunk at the right of the final letter on the reverse, which may be removable. The light weight would suggest a later minting date, and for this variety we know that is the case because this obverse is paired with just one other reverse, a 1775-dated George III reverse (itself probably dated a good 20 years before these were made). The Simian family has a large number of dies, but very little actual die pairing, and it is thought that they were produced at a large number of smaller counterfeit mints – likely with table-top presses, planchet, and dies supplied by middlemen; the first two were perfectly legal to own, the dies and coins struck from them would be what landed any counterfeiter into trouble.



LOT 1046 1752 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, Simian Family, Dies 20-52G. 75.6 grains. Fine, flatly struck as usual for the variety and type, but pleasing nonetheless. The legends are full save for the I of NIA, and the second ordinal is weaker than the first. Design details are fully outlined, just a bit weaker than the plate example for this variety. Lovely light brown, the surfaces generally hard and with the expected light contact marks. Many counterfeits were tossed into a "trouncing sack" after they were made, along with small pebbles and vigorously shaken, giving freshly-minted coins a circulated look. They were then aged by placing into burned sawdust to darken the surfaces and remove that mint red color that collectors so cherish but which would have caused great suspicion for a coin that was dated a good 40-45 years earlier than when it was actually made and put into circulation.. The excellent plates in the book make this family easy to attribute, especially as all the dies were completely hand cut.



LOT 1047 A pair of 1752 Counterfeit George II Halfpennies, Simian Family, Dies 14-52A (85.2 grains) and 26-52K (82.8 grains). Both Very Good, and somewhat weakly struck. The first has about half the legends visible, a full date, and outlined design details. Medium brown, lightly rough and with some reverse pitting. The second is very weak at the upper portion of each side – struck nearly medal turn, these two areas are opposite each other. Just a few letters visible of the obverse legend, BRITA strong on the reverse, as is the date. The tops of each design weak, the rest at least outlined. Medium brown, light roughness. The first is one of the more common of the George II Simian varieties, while the second is scarcer and we note the plate coin for the book is not much better than this. Two coins in the lot.



LOT 1048 1754 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny. 165.2 grains. Choice Very Fine, struck on an amazingly thick planchet – one that actually weighs MORE than a regal halfpence of George II. Bold legends and date, and sharp design detail, cleanly circulated. The reverse is distinct in showing a large raised centering dot, where a compass was used to lay out the legends, but now gives Britannia an "outie" belly button. Pleasing light brown, typical small marks from circulation but nothing too detracting. From a family that is known but has not been published (only a couple George II families were done in the first book). The weight suggests this may have been made early – and though it is heavier than a regal coin, it would have still made a profit for the counterfeiter since it contained just over a farthing's worth of actual copper. This is likely part of a larger family, many dated 1754, that tend to weigh over 120 grains, a group that includes the coin in the following lot.

From the 1995 C4 sale, where this was Lot 569 (and there with a weight of 164.9 grains); no lot ticket from that sale, but easily plate matched.



LOT 1049 1754 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny. 125.0 grains. Extremely Fine, another piece from the 1995 C4 sale, Lot 570, where it was described by the much-missed Tom Rinaldo as "Extremely Fine. Nice steel and brown with bold details. Smooth surfaces and only minor nicks. Interesting type, the obverse almost looks regal with well-designed and engraved bust and large bold legends. The reverse, however, is quite crude with a small date and skinny Britannia. Small die break at top of George's head. Our consignor notes that it is similar to AK 56 and 57, but the engraving and design is really much finer on this obverse die and the reverse is much cruder. A great variety, and a high grade example." Despite over a quarter-century passing, this small family has not yet been fully explored by researchers – one of the exciting things about the counterfeit series is that there is still much work to be done, and discoveries to be made. A lovely coin.

THE VERY RARE 1755 "MR. BURNS" VARIETY



LOT 1050 1755 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny. 168.2 grains. Very Good, a well-worn example of a very important variety, which was first noted in the Mike Ringo auction of January 2008. In that sale cataloguer John Kraljevich noted "This obverse portrait is most readily distinguished by a very pointy nose, reminiscent of Mr. Burns on The Simpsons, and two very substantial hair ribbons. Britannia is fat and squat, sitting upon a double-engraved exergual line to hold her burden." While a grade or two lower than the Ringo piece, the detail is easily matched. The obverse legend is weak at REX, the rest of the letters visible, though often faint, as is the date. Medium brown, lightly rough, and with numerous small contact marks. This is a non-regal date, one in which no genuine British halfpence were struck, though there are a handful of counterfeit varieties which bear this date, for both the British and Irish series. Struck on a very heavy planchet, which seems to be the norm for the variety, as the Ringo specimen was 157.4 grains, also above regal standard. While we cannot ever know when such things were actually struck, it is likely that is was produced in the George II era. Noted by Neil as being from the collection of R. C. Wiley, the author of Coins of Canada. The Ringo piece was thought to be unique, a couple others (including this) have since turned up. A charmingly crude piece, of a very rare variety, in short... .."Exxxxcellent." Smithers, release the hounds... .errrr... .bidders.

EX MIKE RINGO, LIKELY AMERICAN-MADE

AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF THE RARE "BABY HEAD" COUNTERFEIT



LOT 1052 1771 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, the "Baby Head" variety, AK-133. 133.0 grains. Fine or better, a nearly impossible variety to grade because they come weakly struck and usually on wretched planchet stock. One of the most impossibly crude of counterfeits, done by the most unskilled of engravers. The obverse legend is engraved correctly, though GEORGIVS is off the planchet on this example, while II REX is sharp – and though it is clearly a George II legend, the bust faces to the right, as on the coinage of George III. When looking at the reverse it becomes clear that the bust was probably intended to be a George II but was cut in backwards, as the seated Britannia figure also faces the wrong direction, here to the right instead of the left. Despite getting the obverse legend engraved correctly, the reverse legend is backwards, reading AIN NATIRB, with the letters all cut in backwards as well – though the date was somehow cut in correctly! All the reverse letters and date are sharp on this specimen. The obverse bust is simplistic, with a line denoting the bottom edge of the hair, while the reverse figure is laughably crude, looking either like a child's crayon drawing of a scarecrow or a later Picasso painting of some French beauty, you choose. It may be that the reverse die was produced first, tested, and the engraver saw his error and was able to then cut the obverse die with the letters at least facing the right way. Medium brown, the surfaces lightly rough, but not horribly so, and with no detracting marks from circulation. Each of the 10 or so survivors of this family have different centering, wear, and surface issues, giving each one a rather unique look. In Byron Weston's survey of the 8 examples known to him (The Colonial Newsletter, April 2008, issue 136), this example is listed as the fourth known, originally part of the Mike Ringo collection (purchased at the Stack's March 1993 auction); Mike sold it to Neil when he acquired the finest known example of the variety, which appeared in the 2008 sale of his collection. In his article, Weston makes a strong case for these being the mysterious coppers struck by William Gilfoil, a blacksmith at Fort Crown Point, NY, in the early 1770s (the fort burned down in 1773). Gilfoil was a skilled blacksmith, but would have had no experience cutting dies, nor of making planchets, which on this variety appear to be cut out from copper sheets using large shears, something a good blacksmith would possess. It is noteworthy that of the 9 confirmed (and 1 more rumored) specimens, ALL have been found in North America, and this variety was completely unknown to British collectors, including top-of-the-food-chain collector Francis Cokayne who had a penchant for odd, unusual, and crude pieces. There are only a handful of struck counterfeits that have a reasonable chance of being made in America, and these include the Big Three of the series: the Banana Nose, the 1783-dated British, and the Baby Head. The Banana Nose is known by two varieties, both unique, and the 1783 British has two known examples, so the only one most collectors have a chance of owing is the Baby Head variety.

One of the highlights of Neil's collection, we note that the inferior Syd Martin coin (with a charming planchet crack) realized $4,320 earlier this year. The appearance of two examples in a single year should not fool the collector into thinking the variety is obtainable – it might well be a decade before another appears for sale.

ONE OF THE MOST ICONIC COUNTERFEITS



LOT 1053 1771 Counterfeit George II British Halfpenny, pseudo-Indian Head variety, with George III reverse. 107.8 grains Fine or so, somewhat weakly struck as is often the case for the variety. The obverse legend and portrait is full, the bust certainly looking much more like a Native American than a European if you look at the ribbons as more of a headdress than part of a laurel wreath. The reverse is weaker, with just the first and last couple letters visible, much of the weakness apparently due to die wear as it is common to all the specimens we have seen. While the date is indistinct, this reverse die is known in an earlier pairing and the 1771 date is certain, which makes this a mule with a George II obverse and a George III reverse. Medium brown, light marks, but with hard surfaces that are pleasing to the eye. This exact variety is plated in the first volume of the counterfeit book, detailing why it is not part of the Indian Family proper – though this cataloguer, who also wrote that chapter, admits that the family itself is rather tenuously held together by similarity of punches and style, and not die sharing. From the 1995 C4 sale, where it was given a lengthy description and a box around it; there called VF, though we think it misses that mark. It was also called the only example known, which was certainly not the case, as another example was in the Ringo collection, and others have since been found – though it is still quite scarce. The C4 cataloguer's claims that the variety has a chance of being made in North America were a relic of the era that sale was written in, when anything crude was thought to be American; given the other use of this reverse, the variety was certainly struck in England, albeit with an odd obverse bust. There is no general agreement among collectors on whether to put mules such as this with their George II coins, or in with the George III coins of that date; as this auction catalogue offers them by obverse type, we will list the mules by obverse style, instead of in date order.



LOT 1054 1771 Counterfeit George II British Halfpenny, Flat Struck Family Mule, George II Obverse with George III Reverse. 69.0 grains. Very Fine, with the expected weak strike at the centers, though on this one there is some detail in the eye, nose, and mouth of the king, showing that there was likely detail in the die, but the thin planchets did not offer enough metal to flow into those designs. While most commonly seen dated in the 1750s, the mules with 1771 reverses and the general weight levels of under half regal weight suggest that they were all struck far later than any of the dates known for the family, likely in the 1790s. Struck slightly off-center to 6:00, pushing the tops of GEO and EX off the planchet on the obverse, and the tops of TAN and NI off the reverse, but with the bonus of the date being all on the planchet, and quite bold. Lovely lighter brown, the surfaces hard and with a minimum of marks.



LOT 1055 1775 Counterfeit George II British Halfpenny, Coin W Family Mule with George III reverse. 114.0 grains. Fine to Very Fine, probably of the higher grade in terms of wear, the high points of the obverse bust very flat, and the center reverse weak as well. A mule, with a left-facing bust of George II, with a 1775-dated reverse of his grandson, George III. The legends and date are full, the letters at the left tight to the edge of the planchet, but all there. The distinct obverse bust has good detail in his armor and ribbons, flat elsewhere, while the reverse figure has some drapery detail and most of the branch strong. Medium brown, light nicks and marks from circulation, the center reverse showing the rough original planchet quality in the weak area. Like the Coin Z Family piece above, this family was named after having an example plated in Peck's work on British coinage. In the first volume of the counterfeit book it is stated that there is only one variety, dated 1751, but a plausible case was made that a 1756-dated piece and this 1775-dated mule were also family members, and the 1775 is actually likely a double mule, not just the GII/GIII type, but also a mule using a Coin W obverse with a Wedge Topped Sevens Family reverse.

Quite scarce, from the first C4 Convention auction in 1995, where this appeared as Lot 587.



LOT 1056 1776 Counterfeit George II Halfpenny, British Toon Head Family, Dies 2-76A, George II obverse with a George III reverse. 117.8 grains. Very Good, evenly worn and well-used, regardless of the incongruous muling of a George II obverse with a reverse dated 16 years after he died – and dated with a year no regal British halfpence were actually struck! The design details are fully outlined. Britannia's head and neck are from a prepared punch, while the rest was hand engraved into the die – but the head punch is a little crooked compared to the rest of her body, an interesting anomaly found on most reverses of this family. A few letters in the legend are weaker than the others, but nearly all are visible, the date weak but all there save the bottom of the 6 which is off the planchet as centered. One of the good things about the publication of the first volume of the reference series is that it is now possible to plate match coins like this with better-struck specimens; in the past this type had been called 1731, 1736, 1771, and 1775 based on amount of wear and how much of the date was visible – today we know it is unequivocally 1776, certainly a magic year for the colonial American specialist, though one that the Brtis of the time would likely have preferred to forget. Medium brown, light roughness and the expected marks from a long life in circulation, but an attractive coin for the grade, and an acceptable example of a still-scarce variety.



LOT 1057 Undated Counterfeit George II Halfpenny. 97.4 grains. Very Good, a variety that has a small number of examples known, but none showing a recognizable date. As the cataloguer of the piece in the recent Syd Martin sale described the variety, "George's effigy is bloated, and though there is little central detail in Britannia, she looks to have a disproportionately long torso and appears to be sitting very close to the ground, her cheeks swollen, her jaw and mouth jutting forward, the sprig is "vegetative' as we called it in our description of the Ringo specimen which appeared as lot 5844 in our (Stack's) January 2008 Americana Sale. Despite the odd, probably hand cut design motifs, the legends are from punches, which themselves are a bit odd-looking. Perhaps the oddest part of this coin is the date, which is not from punches, but is represented by 4 thinly and shallowly engraved characters that look more like runes than digits and that are followed by two small periods." The date runes on this one have been ruined by roughness in that area, though the coin is easily die-matched to the Martin and Ringo examples, as well as others in private collections. Not noted by earlier cataloguers, there is no actual hand holding that reverse branch, just a straight line representing an arm (likely a punch, which was also used on the pole arm, though that had a hand added to it). Dark brown, lightly rough surfaces, more so on the reverse. There is a dent at the lower obverse/upper reverse, which causes a bend in the planchet in that area. Despite the condition, a rare and intriguing variety, few of which are notably better.



LOT 1058 A Quartet of Regal early date George II Halfpence, all originally purchased as counterfeit. Dates are 1734, 1736, and 1738 (2). Conditions range from VG to Fine, a few with light surface roughness, all with minor marks from circulation. One of the hardest things for many collectors of the series is to figure out which George II issues are counterfeit and which are not, especially for the earlier young head types. This is not helped by the genuine coins often having somewhat crude diework in the legends and date – note the 1734 here with somewhat sloppy legends and the final digit high, or one of the 1738's with the final digit further apart than the other numbers. Weight and planchet size are excellent indicators though – if a coin has the exact same diameter as a known regal and weighs in the regal range, it is almost always going to be genuine. Here the 1734 weighs 144.3 grains, the 1736 is a bit light at 115.2 grains, and the two 1738's weigh 129.2 and 143.4 grains. We have found it very useful to have genuine examples to directly compare to suspect counterfeits. Four coins in the lot.



LOT 1059 A Quintet of George II Halfpence, likely all contemporary cast counterfeits. Good to Very Good, one likely dated 1743, one with a date that appears to be in the 1730s (these two on thicker planchets), the other three with no visible dates, two of them on very thin planchets. Each show at least some indication of being casts, some more so than others, the two partially dated pieces almost certainly casts. As mentioned in the above lot, a direct comparison of these with known regal coins show different diameter planchets (even the heavier ones), and a distinct mushy look to some of the letters and finer detail. This is often hard to distinguish from corrosion as a result of being buried, and it is possible that one of the lightweight ones in this group is indeed a grounder. A useful group for the new collector to study.

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE III BRITISH HALFPENCE:

A RARE 1733-DATED GEORGE III MULE



LOT 1060 1733 Counterfeit George III Halfpenny – a mule with a George III obverse and a George II date. A much rarer type than mules with a George II obverse and George III reverse. 78.8 grains. Very Good, a well-used and banged up example of a legitimately rare variety. This pairs a failing die from the Young Head family, with a reverse from the Flat Struck Family, which is also failing, making this a double mule (ruler and family). It is quite likely that there was a trade in used dies at the time, with a middleman of some sort loaning, renting, or selling used dies to counterfeiters to use when their own dies broke, and this is why we see some very unusual family mulings, which usually have one or both dies broken or otherwise not fit for strenuous use. This piece clearly saw extensive wear, and one wonders if anyone who used it ever realized that George III was not king in 1733, and in fact hadn't even been born until 1738! Darker brown, rough, with some old scratches and a notable reverse dent that shows through as a raised lump at the bow on the king's ribbons. Despite the condition, a coin that will interest collectors, and very few of this mule have been seen.

A VERY RARE 1769-DATED RUBBER LADY FAMILY VARIETY.



LOT 1061 1769 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Rubber Lady Family, Dies 3a-69Ab. 80.2 grains. Very Fine, a boldly struck example from a very rare family, named for the apparent lack of bones in the seated Britannia figure's legs and arms, which often bend at improbable angles, without knee or elbow joints. An exceptionally crude family which uses three non-regal dates (1761, 1769, and 1776 British) and two regal dates (1771 British and 1769 Irish), and while conclusively die-linked, the obverse and reverse dies all appear to be quite distinct from each other. The family was covered in detail in the first volume of the book, with two additional sub-varieties added by Kayla Schlemmer in an article for The Journal of Early American Numismatics, which will also be included in the second volume of the counterfeit book. The obverse has an open-mouthed bust with wild, frizzy hair and unusual crescent-shaped rings representing the hair below the wreath, the same crescent design used on the armor mailing, and there is, unusually, a colon after the word GEORGIVS. The reverse has the torso of the seated Britannia made up of deeply engraved, curving lines, some of them extending out past her actual body. The legends and date are full, the design detail all sharp. This variety is known with both the obverse and reverse dies reworked enough to designate distinct sub-varieties (if you have the book, note the difference in the obverse bust's nose on the 3a and 3b obverse dies and the differences in the detail at the seated figure's lap on reverses 69Aa and 69Ab). Medium brown and mottled lighter color, the surfaces hard though the reverse has some green verdigris around the date and shield. Though the most available of the Rubber Lady varieties, the total number known for the variety can likely be counted on two hands. One of the more crude and most desirable of all counterfeit families, examples seldom appear on the market – of note, both the first Mike Ringo and Syd Martin sales lacked this variety in any condition. Purchased by Neil from noted collector/dealer Richard August, and noted as earlier being in the collection of Bob Vlack. Neil's extensive annotations on the envelope contain an error, where he notes that Eric Newman had this obverse paired with a 1776-dated reverse, whereas Newman actually had a different obverse from this family paired with that 1776 reverse. One of the highlights of Neil's collection of counterfeits, and a coin that will surely be fought over by bidders!

THE FAMOUS "LIONHEAD" VARIETY, PECK COIN ZZ DESIGNS, LEGENDS, AND DATE REVERSED, SOME LETTERS UPSIDE DOWN!



LOT 1062 1771 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Peck Coin ZZ, the "Lionhead" variety, possibly part of the very rare Rubber Lady Family. 107.4 grains. Fine, a circulated example of this very rare and distinct variety, one of the most dramatic counterfeits in the entire series. In offering the Choice VF Syd Martin coin earlier this year, the Stack's Bowers cataloguers did an amazing job, which deserves to be quoted here: "One of the iconic counterfeit halfpennies among over 10,000 different varieties thought to exist, the Peck Coin zz always causes a stir when one of the handful of known specimens comes to market. The design motifs are completely reversed, George III facing left instead of right, as is Britannia, which faces right instead of left, and the legends begin at the lower right and go counterclockwise, rather than beginning at the lower left and running clockwise, as is normal. In addition, some letters are randomly upside down, and the die sinker inexplicably vacillated in the case of the V of GEORGIVS, repunching that letter rotated 180 degrees, as if "correcting' that one letter mattered or even made any sense in the context of the otherwise totally blundered dies!" In the chapter on the Rubber Lady family in the first volume of the counterfeit book series, it was suggested that the Coin ZZ "Lionhead" variety might be tied to that family, which the Martin sale cataloguers agreed with. This example is well struck, the legends full, the N of the backwards NIA is a bit weak, the tops of the backwards BRTIAN are tight against the edge on the obverse. Light brown, the surfaces hard, with a number of light nicks on either side, and a small spot of discoloration at the seated figure's impossibly pointed knees. Only a small number of this distinct variety have appeared for auction, with Mike Ringo's bringing $4,312.50 in 2008, and the Anton-Kesse plate coin realizing $2875 four years later. Despite being one of the most bizarre looking counterfeits, the variety certainly circulated, and there are a couple examples known worn down to VG and lower grades. While not quite the rarity it once was, the Lionhead variety charms all who see it, and collectors who never thought they wanted a counterfeit British halfpence soon find themselves bidding on one in the rare instances it comes up for auction. If you like crude colonial varieties, then how could you not like something like this?



LOT 1063 1771 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Spiked Chin Family, Dies 1-Ab. 112.0 grains. Very Good to Fine, somewhat weakly struck at the left side of the obverse and reverse, resulting in GEORG and RITAN being indistinct, the rest of the legends all there, the date sharp. Good design detail, the unusual obverse bust here in a very late die state, with the diebreak from the chin fully formed. The reverse die is also in a late state, recut from the Aa obverse and looks quite different from it – indeed, collectors long thought there were two different reverses used with this obverse, but photographic overlays showed that the legend and date matched up exactly, which would be impossible to do on two different dies that had letters individually hand punched. The seated figure's neck, branch, and the shield are quite different in appearance between the original and recut states and, of course, collectors will want both. Medium olive brown, the surfaces hard enough but with a number of marks from circulation and a couple ancient scratches. We offered two obverse brockages from this family earlier in this sale, and a collector could put together an interesting group of this family, just as Neil did. We note that Neil's envelope originally called this 1777 and noted "UNIQUE?," neither of which are correct, and this is actually the more available of the two die states.



LOT 1064 1771 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Wood 42 Family, Dies 4-71C. Fine or so, a decent example of a scarce and notable family, which gets its name from a very worn example of the only George II, head-left, style from this family that was mistakenly listed by Howland Wood as a Canadian Blacksmith copper, Wood 42, early in the 20th century. This is a rather crude family, known with dates of 1733, 1771, and 1777, the latter two dates occasionally cut into the die backwards, as is the case here. But the date isn't the only thing backwards, as the S of GEORGIVS is also cut in reverse – and the V of that word is actually an upside-down A, the crossbar quite bold. Light brown, the surfaces hard but unfortunately marred with a number of pits on either side, with green verdigris in them, and several fine hairline scratches across the reverse figure. Despite the surface issues, this is a scarce family, with no varieties in it actually considered common. The backwards date and S add to the desirability of the piece.



LOT 1065 1771 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Group B Family. 99.6 grains. Very Fine, or nearly there, somewhat weakly struck at the centers. Full, strong legends on either side, the date about half off the planchet as centered. Darker brown, the surfaces hard, though the weak areas show the original surface quality of the blank planchet, with numerous light marks. The Group B Family has not been published yet, but is known in both George II and George III styles, and likely with Irish family members as well. There are a number of mules within the series with George II obverses and George III reverses, as well as vice-versa, and three varieties that share a die dated 1794, nearly two decades after the cessation of regal British halfpence from the Tower Mint, and quite likely the year those were actually struck. The family name comes from supposed ties to the evasion copper series, which was separated by an earlier researcher into three groups – A, B, and C. The Group B evasions were thought to have been coined by Birmingham token maker William Lutwyche, though it is more likely that Lutwyche was responsible for nearly all the evasions; it remains to be researched whether the Group B counterfeit family is actually related, and if not there will likely be a name change for this family. The obverse busts in this family frequently have the king with a notable double chin, as is found here, while the date figures and the stand for the shield are also fairly distinct. A fairly large family, one that needs much further research.



LOT 1066 1771 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Group B Family. 87.6 grains. Very Fine, another example from this family, struck from different dies than the above, though with the strong stylistic similarities of double chin, style of date, and the stand for the shield. Light brown, the surfaces hard to the eye, with the expected light marks from circulation visible under a glass, but quite attractive in hand.



LOT 1067 Quartet of 1771-dated George III British Halfpence – two regals and two counterfeits. The regals were purchased by Neil as counterfeits from Bill Anton in 1996 and, really, should not have fooled either of those two astute numismatists as the style is good and they are well within regal weight range (122.0 and 147.0 grains); these two coins both grade Fine, the lighter-weight one with surface roughness, the heavier one both lighter in color and with better surfaces. The first counterfeit weighs 93.1 grains, and is from the Long Top Sevens family named for, you guessed it, the length of the tops of the 7's in the date. This grades VG, with most of the legend visible, the date sharper, the reverse figure weak, and with numerous light dents and marks on either side. The final coin weighs 88.9 grains, and is clearly a counterfeit issue, but from a family that has not been identified yet, using somewhat large letter punches, and a smaller set for the date. Very Good to Fine, light brown, the surfaces rough and with circulation marks, as well as a pre-strike planchet flaw above the shield. Only a small portion of the known counterfeits have been grouped into families, but with each successive volume of the book series, another chunk will get done. Having a regal of the date in hand to compare with suspected counterfeits is quite useful. Four coins in the lot.

A LOVELY 1772 SIMIAN HALFPENNY



LOT 1068 1772 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Simian Family. 60.1 grains. Extremely Fine, a boldly struck example, despite being on a planchet well under half the regal weight. The legends are full on either side, though the coin is struck slightly off-center, pushing the very tops of some letters off the planchet, as well as the bottom of the date, though the loop of the 2 is all there, and the date is certain. The distinct obverse bust shows excellent detail, and sports an acorn-like eye. The reverse is equally sharp with the flat-headed figure showing bold detail in her gown, branch, and shield, and the globe she sits upon shows wave-like detail. Medium brown, the surfaces hard, somewhat glossy, and with just minimal circulation marks. An extremely late reverse die state, with an arched diebreak extending from Britannia's shins, up through the branch, her head, the pole and down through the NI of NIA – it is really amazing this die stayed in one piece! The George III Simians have not yet been studied, but the majority of the British style dies seem to be dated 1775, and while there are a number of 1772-dated varieties, all seem to be fairly scarce – and especially so in this kind of condition. A gorgeous counterfeit.



LOT 1069 Trio of 1772-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence, from different families, two of them not yet published. The first is 133.4 grains and is part of the large Aging George Family, which has been published in the first volume of the counterfeit book, and we leave the fun of attributing this to the winning bidder (hint, look at the position of the date numerals); this coin grades VG, the branch weak on the reverse, but the rest of the detail sharp for the grade. Light brown, and clean. The second weighs 116.4 grains and is from an unpublished family with a weak-chinned king, the obverse with a very large G compared to the R next to it in GEORGIVS, the date sloppy and with the final digit showing an extremely large loop to what is assumed to be a 2, though there is the possibility it could also be a 0. This coin is also VG, the obverse smooth and the reverse lightly rough. The third is 122.4 grains, and is from an unknown family that uses large letter punches, here with the bust showing the king's mouth and chin somewhat sunken. Grading Fine, this well-made example would have doubtlessly fooled many at the time, especially as the 1772-dated regal coinage often had sloppily-made dies. A fun study group. Three coins in the lot.



LOT 1070 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Old Guy George Family, Dies 1-73A. 123.4 grains. Very Fine, a boldly struck example of this scarce variety, named for the unflattering, aged bust of the king, which has his chin curling up towards his nose, and saggy jowls. This obverse die comes with three different reverses, the others dated 1774 and 1775, but this 1773 version is the crudest, with the letters and date appearing hand-engraved, while most of the obverse letters appears to be from punches. The seated Britannia is nearly a stick figure, though one that appears to be wearing shoulder pads to accent her waspish waist, and her arms are thin. The branch is crude, with many leaves not connected to it, and the round shield has more of a geometric design on it than a depiction of the Union Jack. Medium olive brown, the surfaces with a light roughness at the left obverse and the reverse, the right obverse hard, and overall pleasing to the eye, especially as there are no major marks from circulation. There is a diebreak in the field under the OR of GEORGIVS and another break through the ribbon ends, connecting them to the bust. These breaks do not appear on the 1775-dated varieties, but do appear on around half of the 1774-dated varieties we have seen, and most of the 1773-dated versions, so despite having the latest date in the family, the 1775 variety was struck first, and apparently the bulk of the 1773's were struck last. Once considered quite rare, the family has remained scarce, save for a variety pairing a second obverse with this 1773 reverse, which is extremely rare.



LOT 1071 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Moody-Pouty George Family, Dies 2-73A. 136.8 grains. Very Fine, the obverse choice for the grade, the reverse with a couple large pits. Well struck, the legends and date full, the G's on the obverse closed (with no space between the top serif and the crossbar), something not seen on many families outside of the Young Heads. The obverse bust is well-detailed, showing the king with a pensive look in his eye, which led to the family nickname. The seated Britannia figure is a bit weaker at the center as struck – the deeply engraved cheek of the king filled with metal as this was struck, and there was not enough left to flow to the reverse area. There is a very large pit at the branch arm ,which looks like it started as a dent as there is a small raised area opposite it on the obverse, and a couple smaller ones in the drapery. Medium brown, the surfaces hard aside from the pits. A scarcer, small family, with seven known varieties, all but one linked by die sharing. Purchased from dealer Tom Rinaldo in 1995.

AN UNCIRCULATED EXAMPLE FROM THE AGING GEORGE FAMILY, EX MIKE RINGO



LOT 1072 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Aging George Family, Dies 35-73I. 134.4 grains. Uncirculated, a rare grade for any counterfeit issue which, after all, were made to circulate. Boldly struck, the legends and date full, the design detail razor sharp on either side – so bold that die finishing lines can be seen in the fields around Britannia on the reverse, fine detail that quickly wore off in circulation. The obverse is a medium chocolate brown with surfaces that have some light roughness under a glass; the reverse is a shade or two lighter, and with surfaces that are hard and choice. This difference in color and surface literally tells the story of why the coin remained choice – it was in a collector's cabinet, obverse side up, likely for a century or more. The heavy weight (which is typical for this family) and good detail may have fooled an early collector into thinking it was a genuine Tower Mint product. The few counterfeits that do exist in Uncirculated grades are often better-made types like this and the Coin X Family, which hew close to regal weight standards and would have stood out in contrast against lighter weight and more crude counterfeits (and one can occasionally find a high grade counterfeit from these families slabbed as a genuine, regal, coin). Purchased from Mike Ringo, still in his handwritten envelope where he also calls the piece Unc. – this is a rare grade for Mike to have sold, unless he had a duplicate in equal or better condition!



LOT 1073 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Aging George Family, Dies 73-J. 133.2 grains. Very Fine, a more typical grade for this family. Struck from the same obverse die as the above, with a different reverse, here in a very late state, with the small diebreak from shoulder to knee shown in the book example now ending in a large cud, and a second break curving from the neck through the branch and joining that cud. Legends and date are full, and the design details are as sharp as expected for the grade. Dark chocolate brown, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, either side with some light pre-strike planchet flaws that are well-concealed, and a touch of roughness at the base of the obverse. There is a dent hidden in the central obverse which you really cannot see, but which gives the coin a slightly convex shape, noticeable when placed on a flat surface.

From the second C4 convention auction in 1996, where this was Lot 566.



LOT 1074 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny. 125.4 grains. Very Fine, from a family that has not been researched, but a known variety. Full legends, the ordinals and the I on the obverse with a single serif at the top right, none at the base, whereas the I's on the reverse have full serifs at top and base. The devices are strong, the king with a rather pointy nose, the reverse with a distinctly curved branch – this piece may find a home in a family being worked on called the Bent Branch Family, at least one variety of which has a similar ordinal missing three of the four serifs, but it is too early to tell for sure. A bit weakly struck at the centers, showing the original surface quality there, otherwise a nice medium brown with good eye appeal and no major marks from circulation.



LOT 1075 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Coin Y Family, Dies 6-73B. 130.8 grains. Fine, a decent example of a popular, occasionally crude family, which is mostly found with 1774 dates. The obverse legend is full while the reverse is weak at RITAN though those letters are partially visible and the date is sharp, the latter with an extra bar to the top right of the 3, which makes identification easy. The pugnacious obverse bust shows good detail, the reverse figure weak at her branch arm. Medium brown, the surfaces with interesting striations that give the obverse a "cracked" look, the reverse cleaner, both sides with circulation marks.



LOT 1076 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Lanky Letters Family, Dies 73-4-73C. 80.8 grains. Fine, the obverse closer to VF. The legends are full, the date only slightly on the planchet due to centering. The distinct obverse bust is strong for the grade, with detail in the armor and hair, the facial features not as sharp. The reverse is weak at the globe but sharper elsewhere, including the full, unusual branch which makes attribution a snap. Light brown, the surfaces hard, the reverse with a larger planchet flaw between the pole and the N of NIA, and an ancient "X" scratch, likely commenting on the counterfeit status of the coin. A popular family, which comes in both coin (as here) and medal turn.



LOT 1077 1773 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, GEORGVIS legend error. 101.4 grains. Very Good, dark and uniformly rough, a coin that likely spent some time in the ground, but special for the engraving error which rendered the obverse legend as GEORGVIS instead of the correct GEORGIVS. While listed by Cobwright as an evasion copper, it is instead a minor engraving error, of the type known on a number of colonial issues where the wrong letter was punched into the die – indeed, this exact error is known on a perfectly genuine regal issue made at the Tower Mint! Such minor legend faults do not make something an evasion copper any more than it would make the regal issue with a similar error into an evasion. Surprisingly difficult to find, most survivors do seem to be rather low grade, which shows that the legend error did not impede their circulation in the least.



LOT 1078 A Quintet of 1773-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. All from different families, three of which have been published in the first volume of the book – all offered here unattributed, and this will make wonderful practice for the beginning collector. Included are: 1) Boyish George Family (116.4 grains), dark and rough Fine, fully attributable. 2) Aging George Family (119.4 grains), Very Good, lightly rough and with scratches, fully attributable. 3) Coin Y Family (126.8 grains), Fine, dark and very rough, especially the reverse, fully attributable. 4) Slanting Sevens Family (116.2 grains), Fine, a bit weak at centers, lovely surfaces, minimal marks; a family mentioned in the first counterfeit book, but not yet with varieties published. 5) Unknown family, not yet researched, showing an upside down A used for a V in GEORGIVS, 119.2 grains. Very Good, well-worn, but the legends full on either side, the upside-down A clearly showing the crossbar, and an exact match to the A punch used on the reverse; the date weak though both Neil and Tom Rinaldo, who he purchased this from, thought it was a 1775. A nice starter set showing some diversity of styles. Five coins in the lot.



LOT 1079 A Quintet of 1773-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. All from unknown or unpublished families, which will require further research. Included are: 1) Rounded apple-cheek on king (132.0 grains), VF but lightly rough and with old scratches, intriguing type. 2) Young Head obverse (?) with a very atypical reverse with a very sloppy date (115.4 grains), Very Good, lighter color, some small flaws. 3) Pursed lips on bust (117.2 grains), Very Good, smooth, well-worn, striation at left reverse. 4) and 5) Very dark, evenly rough VG. (96.2 and 112.4 grains). Five coins in the lot.



LOT 1080 A Quartet of 1773-dated George III British Halfpence. Two definite regal pieces, purchased as counterfeit, understandable as die work was occasionally crude for regal issues of this year. and two coins that may be counterfeits but need further research. Included are: 1) Regal, Good, very worn, about half the legends visible (138.6 grains). 2) Regal, VG/Fine, lightly rough at the lower left obverse but good detail (146.2 grains). 3) Possible counterfeit, Fine, legends look a bit off to be regal, though fabric is good, light olive with some staining and verdigris on reverse (136.8 grains). 4) Possible counterfeit, VG, dark and rough, likely a grounder, off-center slightly to 3:00, style not quite up to regal quality, lighter weight (105.0 grains). Four coins in the lot.



LOT 1081 1774 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Old Guy George Family, Dies 1-74A. 143.2 grains. Fine, some details a bit sharper, but moderately rough across either side. The legends are full, though occasional letters are weaker but readable. The date is sharp and all on the planchet, the final digit looking more like a crooked letter A. Earlier we offered a 1773-dated example from this family, and this is the same obverse die, with a different reverse – and is from an earlier obverse die state than that 1773-dated example. While the reverse is not quite as crude as the 1773, it is still off enough to be instantly recognizable as counterfeit. Aside from the wonky date, the branch looks like a child's drawing of a tree and is appears to be barely held in Britannia's fingertips. The authors of this chapter noted that the 7's in the date were different – this because they were engraved by hand and not done with number punches, and called the final digit a "Drunken A," though when the full digit is on the planchet it is clearly a sloppy 4, leaning far to the left. Originally quite rare, enough examples (usually lower grade) have appeared to make each of the varieties scarce, save for the one using the second obverse die which remains extremely rare today.



LOT 1082 1774 **Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Mousy Face Family. 125.4 grains.** Very Fine, choice save for a couple light rim tics, which are minor. Well struck, the legends and design details are all sharp. The smaller date is also strong, with the final digit placed far to the right of the other three. Medium brown, the surfaces hard and with minimal marks, pleasing to the eye. This is a family that has been researched for over a decade, but not yet published or even finalized; it gets its name from the distinct rodent-like face on the king. The dies seem to share similarities to (or were copied from) dies in other families. The ordinals are often without serifs, similar to the Topless Ordinals Family, and the reverse often looks like something from the Coin Y Family, especially in the treatment of the branch and the lobster claw-like hand holding it, as well as the crude date numerals, all traits evident on this coin. The difficulty has been where to draw the line between these three families, though it is hoped that a chapter will be done in the second volume of the counterfeit book series, which should see print within a year or two. A scarce family, this is an especially nice example.



LOT 1083 A pair of 1774-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. The first is 107.6 grains and is from the Topless Ordinals Family, which has not been published. Very Fine and well-struck, there are obvious similarities to the Mousy Face piece in the above lot – yet notable differences as well. Lighter brown, hard surfaces, with minimal marks, making for a pleasing example of this type. The second weighs 143.2 grains, extremely heavy for a counterfeit, but the dies are clearly not regal. It is from a yet-unknown family, with closed G's in the obverse legend and a bust that is a bit off. Fine, cleanly and evenly worn, light marks and some minor reverse rim tics. Something at this weight would have easily circulated side-by-side with regal coins, even in times when lighter-weight counterfeits were being shunned by merchants. Worthy of further research, it would be interesting to know if the weight on this one is an outlier, or whether whatever family it gets put into all skew towards regal weight. Two coins in the lot.

A SHARP EXAMPLE OF AN ICONIC BRITISH TOON HEAD VARIETY



LOT 1084 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, British Toon Head Family, Dies 1-75A. 109.8 grains. Very Fine, some areas just a tad weaker, others stronger than that grade, a wholly respectable example of this dramatic, crude counterfeit. The rather simple-looking bust with a vacant expression has hair and wreath composed of deeply cut lines without any finer detail, as does the dress that Britannia wears, and the shield by her side, all appearing more like caricature sketches, their very crudeness easily proclaiming this a counterfeit. The S in GEORGIVS is backwards, and the N in BRITAN was punched in upside down and then corrected, but with the original diagonal still visible, along with a serif above the lower right base of the letter – one wonders why this was so important for the engraver to correct when the obverse error was not, or whether anyone would have looked at this at the time and thought it a genuine issue to begin with. One feature of the British Toon family (there is an Irish version of this family as well, both covered in the first volume of the book series) is that the head and neck of Britannia was made with a prepared punch, while her torso was hand-engraved; the head punch, as here, is often slightly tilted or off so that it doesn't quite line up with her body. Medium brown, the surfaces hard to the eye, with light roughness visible under a glass, and the only circulation marks of note are some light scratches in the right obverse field which have toned down to the surface color. Despite the crudeness of the dies, most examples of this variety are heavily circulated. Once considered rare, this is probably the most available variety in the family, which allows the collector to get a "WOW" looking counterfeit at very reasonable price levels.



LOT 1085 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Coin Z Family, the "Puffy Head" variety. 115.4 grains. Choice Very Fine, the obverse closer to the EF level, but with that die being deeply engraved it usually appears sharper than the reverse. Another naked-eye type coin, with an obvious nickname given the large, puffy features of the king. Chocolate brown, the surfaces hard, with faint marks from circulation and minor roughness on the reverse which is fine, since it is the obverse you want nicer on this variety. The overall family grouping is Coin Z, named after a specimen that was illustrated in C. Wilson Peck's work on British coins, where a member of this family was illustrated as letter Z on a plate of counterfeits (which also included W, X, Y, all of which have been kept as family names); it is itself a subset of the much larger Georgius Triumpho family, which will likely be tackled by breaking off smaller groups like this and publishing those, and it is hoped this family will be covered in the second volume of the book series. Single varieties within larger families can have nicknames, especially when well known. A handsome example of this variety, purchased from Tom Rinaldo in 1995.



LOT 1086 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Coin Z Family. 154.6 grains. Very Fine, another example from this family, though from different dies than the above, and on a whopping thick planchet that actually weighs a bit more than a regal halfpenny! Well-struck, the legends, date, and design details all bold, the branch on the reverse showing berries, which ties it to the larger Georgius Triumpho Family, of which the Coin Z's are a subset. Milk chocolate brown, the surfaces hard enough, with minimal marks on the obverse, a few more on the reverse, along with a very tiny patch of roughness above Britannia's head. Pleasing to the eye, and remarkable for the robust planchet – which still afforded the counterfeiters a profit, albeit a much smaller one.

A HIGH-GRADE, VERY WELL MADE COUNTERFEIT



LOT 1087 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, possibly part of the Roman Head Family. 126.8 grains. About Uncirculated, with little actual wear, and some light marks that may be more from a trouncing sack than actual circulation. Boldly struck, all the design details full, the legends and date crisp and sharp. Medium brown, the surfaces hard and with a bit of gloss to them, the obverse with a trivial area of light roughness before the face, which appears to have been in the planchet before the coin was struck, and a couple ancient scratches that have toned to the surface color. The Roman Head family is ill-defined, and though a synopsis chapter was included in the first volume it raised more questions than it answered. The family is similar to the much larger Young Head Family, especially in the use of closed G's in the legend, but the bust styles are different and distinct, and they tend to come on heavier planchet stock as well. It is hoped that this family gets clarified more in the future, but the coins in it are quite striking, with the bust of George looking very much like a Roman emperor. A small group do exist in higher grades, which suggests that collectors in the late 19th century added them to their cabinets as regal issues. 1775 is actually a scarce year for genuine, regal halfpence, yet the most common date found on counterfeits, and one can see a well-made, heavy coin like this fooling a collector of the time.



LOT 1088 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, possibly part of the Roman Head Family. 135.0 grains. Technically Uncirculated, with traces of original mint red around some of the obverse letters and date, but weakly struck and on a poorly-annealed planchet that shows some striae and light roughness – without the mint red this would be graded EF as that weakly struck area would look like wear. That weak area the hair area on King George's head right above his neck, to about halfway up his head, and the face of the Britannia figure, while all the other details are razor-sharp, and the legends and date all bold. From a late obverse die state, with a cud at the back of the king's head, right above the bow, and extending into the field. The surfaces, as mentioned, have light striae that appears to be roughness at first glance, but a glass shows this was the actual surface quality of the blank planchet. The ample traces of red are pleasing, and the few marks appear to be more from the trouncing sack than from actual circulation. Like the above, this appears to be part of this ill-defined family, and while the reverse has many characteristics of a Young Head family piece, including the use of a J instead of a 1 in the date, it is unknown how these two families are related – dies could have been engraved by the same hand, at different times, which seems probable since the Roman Head issues tend to come heavier than 120 grains, while the Young Heads tend to average around the 90-grain mark. A charming, wholly original coin.



LOT 1089 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Big Bird Family, Dies 2-75A, "Parrot Head" variety. 110.4 grains. Very Good, well-worn, likely with a bit of a weak strike to begin with, and from late die states as well. The obverse legend is full, save for the first letter, while not quite half the reverse legend can be seen, this due to advanced die failure in several areas along the rim, while the date is mostly on the planchet. The distinct obverse bust with its prominent beak ...err, nose... which gave this variety its nickname is fully outlined, as is the seated Britannia figure on the reverse. Lighter brown, the surfaces hard enough to the eye, despite some light planchet flaws at the center obverse, and the expected light marks and hairline scratches from ample time in circulation. The Big Bird Family is small, though a George II variety has been added to it since the first counterfeit book was published (we offered this variety earlier, making five known varieties for the family now), and aside from the bird-like visages on some of the dies, the very large letter punches are quite distinctive, and shared by all members of the family. Quite scarce, this one purchased by dealer Richard August in 1998, and still in his envelope where this was priced at $600 – at the time likely a fair price since so few were then known.



LOT 1090 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Georgius Triumpho Family. 128.8 grains. Fine or slightly better, a well-struck example of this large, yet-to-be-published family that will likely be broken into several smaller groups that hold together stylistically, such as the Coin Z Family piece offered above. Full legends and date, the design details as expected for the grade level. Some of the 1775-dated pieces appear to have been from dies that were originally dated 1776, with the engraver removing the lower left part of the loop of the 6 and turning it into a 5, most obvious when the top of the number is diagonal instead of flat, as is the case here; this type of date is called "5 from 6," and it likely occurred because the maker(s) found out that the Tower Mint had stopped production of British halfpence in 1775, and there were no regal coins dated 1776. Some, but far from all, of the 1776 dated dies were "fixed," and it may be that this large coinage was produced by several different counterfeiters, some of whom got the word about the date, some of whom did not. The GT Family (for short), is easily distinguishable, as most of the British reverses show berries on the branch, something not found on nearly all other families. Many of the obverse dies also have a V-shaped notch on the obverse bust where the forehead meats the top leaves of the laurel wreath. While not rare, it is an interesting type.



LOT 1091 1775 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Double Counterstamp. 122.8 grains. Very Good to Fine, from an unpublished family, the obverse bust with a distinctly dour look and a rather weak chin, the reverse with a shield somewhere between round and square. Partial obverse legend, the reverse legend sharper, and the top of the date on the planchet. Medium brown, light marks from circulation. What makes the piece interesting is that it sports two different counterstamps, one almost over the other! The older counterstamp is at the center reverse, and appears to be a large DY, within a scalloped oval border, though it is not completely clear as the left part of the D and upper arms of the Y are obscured by yet another counterstamp applied in the same area, partially overlapping. This second counterstamp is a large IL, the second letter being over the first counterstamp; this appears to be of a slightly later date, and is not in any sort of box or border. While one occasionally finds the same counterstamp applied more than once to a single coin, it is unusual to see two different counterstamps on the same coin.



LOT 1092 A Trio of Undated George III British Halfpence. Though all have been matched to known specimens dated 1775, all from the Simian Family. The first is 79.8 grains, Very Fine, though much of the king's face is indistinct due to die failure. Struck slightly off center towards 11:00, which pushes most of the IS of GEORGIVS and the first two ordinals off the planchet, but does give a bold row of denticles at the bottom; the strike pushes the date off as well, with just the tops of the two 7's still visible. The obverse die failure and large diebreaks through RIT on the reverse made this one easy to match up. Medium brown, hard surfaces, generally pleasing. The second weighs 74.6 grains and is Very Fine but rough, more so on the reverse. There is a large diebreak diagonally across the seated Britannia, which made it easy to match to a known specimen with a full date. Dark brown, a few light planchet flaws on the king's face, but not too bad. From the 1995 C4 Convention sale, where this was lot 584. The third is 88.8 grains, Fine, lightly but evenly rough, the legends full with just the A of NIA weak, the 177 of the date there, the last digit gone. The Simians were considered quite rare a couple decades ago, and generally brought strong prices – which was noticed by British collectors and dealers who began sending a lot of them over, completely destroying the Anton-Kesse contention that these were "Crude American" pieces. Three coins in the lot.



LOT 1093 A Pair of 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. From the Long Neck Family. The first is from Dies 3-B and weighs 122.6 grains. Fine overall, the obverse closer to VF, the reverse much weaker than that level. Full legends, those on the obverse bold, BRITAN weak on the reverse but visible, and the date is all there. An odd family, mostly sharing distinct large letter punches, and with a long neck on Britannia – though a few dies have a normal-sized neck, but are tied to the family by die sharing, a valuable lesson that a nickname for a family may not apply to ALL members of that group. Medium brown, some verdigris on either side that could likely be removed and has not eaten into the surface of the coin. The second is from Dies 6-A, with a very different looking obverse bust, though with a similar long neck on the seated Britannia, and weighs 122.0 grains. Very Fine, from a reverse die that was polished, removing some details like Britannia's ankles and much of her feet. Dark olive, lightly rough, but with minimal marks from circulation, and quite well detailed. Two coins in the lot, the first purchased from Bill Anton in 1996, the second from Richard August in the same year.



LOT 1094 A Quintet of 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. All from known families. Included are: 1) Simian, 80.0 grains, Fine, sharper but with significant roughness on both sides. Late die states with multiple cuds at the lower obverse, and a diebreak connecting the TA of BRITAN on the reverse. 2) British Toon Head Family, Dies 1-75A, the same type as the coin offered in an earlier lot, 104.8 grains. Very Good, likely sharper but weak at upper obverse/lower reverse. Light brown, the surfaces with significant pockmarks on either side, which add an extra level of crudeness to the coin. 3) Wedge Top Sevens Family, 117.8 grains. Very Fine, well-struck, legends and design details strong for the grade, the date full and clearly showing how the family nickname was acquired. The reverse cracked through Britannia's head, with notable die swelling in the field above the branch. Chocolate brown, wholesome and pleasing. 4) Young Head Family, Closed G's, 117.6 grains. Very Fine, weakly struck at the centers as often found on this family, though on a heavier planchet than usually seen. Full legends and date, good design detail, the reverse with a large diebreak through Britannia's head, the obverse with roughness at the weakly struck area. Medium brown, nice enough for the grade. 5) Young Head Family, Open G's, 71.8 grains, a more typical weight level for the family. Very Fine, from exceptionally late die states on both sides – the obverse with heavy die swelling at the left, causing GEORGI to appear incuse, as the field was literally raised around the letters, and a die chip in the field in front of the king's chin. The reverse has a large cud right atop Britannia's head, making her appear to be wearing a large hat. Despite the advanced die states, the legends are full and the detail is strong, and the coin is an attractive medium olive with minimal marks. Five coins in the lot, a good starter set of different family types for the date.



LOT 1095 A Quartet of 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. All distinct types. Included are: 1) Simian Family, 87.8 grains. Fine, the obverse a bit sharper, with full legend and good design detail in the armor and hair, though the face is flat. The reverse is weak at ITAN, though the letters are all visible, the date sharp, with the final digit too far to the right, and the seated figure with a very long arm that would reach well past her knees if unbent. Medium brown, light planchet flaws but pleasing, ex Richard August, in his envelope where priced at $200. 2) Coin Z Family, the "Puffy Head" variety, detailed in an earlier lot, 111.0 grains. Fine, dark and evenly rough, obscuring the last two letters in BRITAN, the design detail still sharp, and the distinct obverse bust strong. 3) Young Head Family, Open G's, 106.2 grains. Very Fine detail, light brown surfaces that have been unfortunately been gouged several times on either side, and with a large diagonal scratch on the reverse. Still sharp, with full legends, date, and strong design detail. From the 1996 C4 sale, where this was Lot 580. 4) Unknown family, likely a family mule using a Young Head reverse, but with a very atypical obverse which looks more like a Georgius Triumpho Family than anything else yet described, 114.8 grains. Very Fine, the obverse bold, the reverse a bit weaker and from a failing die with heavy swelling, especially at BRITAN (failing and broken dies appear to have been rented or sold to smaller counterfeiters, creating many of the unusual family mules we see today). A piece worthy of further research. Four coins in the lot, all interesting.

LOT 1096 A Sextet of 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. Included are 1) Wedge Top Sevens Family, 118.4 grains. Very Fine, the obverse with the second G in GEORGIVS clearly punched over an incorrect I, the reverse with a die break through the branch. Medium brown, clean and attractive. 2) Wedge Top Sevens Family, 130.0 grains, VG, slightly off center, clean for grade. 3) Wedge Top Sevens Family, from different dies than the last, 113.4 grains. Fine, some details sharper, legends and date strong, the obverse bust weak at the center of the head, otherwise strong. Medium brown, lightly rough but not bad. 4) Young Head Family, Closed G's, 89.8 grains, struck medal turn instead of the usual coin turn. Very Fine, well struck, the dies heavily clashed, with the obverse bust of the king clearly showing reversed and incuse at the top half of Britannia. Olive brown, the surfaces with numerous light digs, and a spot of verdigris at the X of REX, but an interesting specimen nonetheless. 5) Young Head, Open G's, 107.4 grains. Very Fine, the obverse die crumbling at George's nose and chin, as well as at the legend at the right. Light brown, a couple verdigris spots on either side and an old scrape below the branch. 6) Slant Sevens Family, named for those digits being punched into the die at a slight angle, making them slant to the right, 121.2 grains. Fine, the obverse stronger than that, the reverse weaker, especially at the center. Full legends and date, the obverse bust sharp, the reverse figure weak at her midsection. Medium brown, the obverse nice with just a few marks, the reverse with a lot of heavy scratches. Six coins in the lot.

LOT 1097 A Sextet of 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Halfpence. All from the Young Head Family, four from the Open G's subset, two from the Closed G's. Ranging from VG to VF, two of them with notable green verdigris, all with marks and light damage from circulation. The Young Heads are one of the most commonly-seen counterfeits, and certainly the most commonly found 1775 date. They were likely among the last of the larger families struck in the late 1790's, and tend to weigh somewhere between half and two-thirds regal weight, though there are occasional outliers, as is the case with this group – the lightest is 74.0 grains, the heaviest is 123.2 grains, and the other four are in the 93-101 grain range. An interesting study group, five of them purchased by Neil from noted collector Bill Anton in 1996. Six coins in the lot.

THE RARE 1777 SIMIAN HALFPENNY, PAIRED WITH AN EVASION COPPER REVERSE



LOT 1098 1777 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Simian Family mule. 72.4 grains. Very Fine, a most unusual mule that pairs a Simian obverse with the usual hand-engraved legend and device, with a reverse that used prepared punches for the letters and numbers. The legends are full save for the A of BRITAN which is weak, while the date is sharp, a bonus on this variety. Good design detail in the obverse bust, the reverse figure weaker from die wear. Medium brown, a few minute striae on either side, but minimal marks from circulation. The reverse is something of a triple whammy of oddity – it is a non-regal date, a year in which no British halfpence were struck, but this die was also first used in the evasion copper series, where it was paired with an evasion obverse die that read GEORGE III REX (Cobwright G.0100 obverse, this reverse being Cobwright B.0530), then paired with this Simian counterfeit obverse. Finally, this reverse die originally had the word GILT engraved upside down, across the globe that Britannia sits upon – who knows why! The word was gouged out of the die by hand, making it look like a large internal cud in that area on struck coins, but traces of some letters can be seen – and the evasion obverse that this die was originally paired with also had the word GILT on it, below the bust and also reversed, though it was not gouged out of that die! One of the more curious mules in the series, crossing the counterfeit/evasion divide, and thus collected by specialists in both series. Though there are a small number of 1777-dated counterfeits, they are all quite rare, while this is the most available way to own that date with a counterfeit obverse (the evasion mule with this reverse is about equally scarce as this). This was the only 1777 in Neil's collection, and we note that Syd Martin's collection had an example of the evasion copper using this reverse, as well the variety that pairs this obverse with a 1775-dated reverse, but did not have this 1777-dated mule.

AN INCREDIBLE UNCIRCULATED 1781 COUNTERFEIT, EX MIKE RINGO COLLECTION



LOT 1099 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 40-81A. 132.8 grains. The stellar Mike Ringo coin, sold in the 1998 C4 auction, which contained his 1781 and 1785 counterfeit halfpence, still the largest offering of these dates, where this was Lot 414, had enlarged photographs and was ably described by Tom Rinaldo as: "MS63. A stunner to start off with. Hard lustrous light brown surfaces, perfectly centered with crisp and even detail. Both sides show signs of the minting proves with vertical thin roller striae still at the centers. The obverse has a few small areas toned slightly ruddy, the largest at the cheek and between the shoulders. Also light gray deposits within the bow, X, and lower breast plate. No marks, nicks, or other damage. It is hard to conceive of this not being the finest known of this variety. While not full weight, this is good weight for a copper counterfeit, and the dies were executed with obvious skill. It has been speculated that the 1781 date was used since it was during that year that the British crown resumed mintage of lawful Irish halfpennies. Their British counterpart, however, failed to materialize." This was a stellar coin to begin the Ringo offering, and a stellar one to also start off Neil's collection of 1781 and 1785-dated pieces. The only thing to add to Tom's description is that the coin shows nice hints of original luster. While Eric Newman mistakenly thought the 1785's were made specifically for North America and thought the 1781s were at least American-relevant, he did an admirable job (with Mike Ringo's help) in cataloguing the varieties in 1988 in Museum Notes 33, published by the American Numismatic Society. The 1781 and 1785 families were covered in the first volume of the counterfeit book series, which included varieties discovered since the Newman publication; out of respect for his groundbreaking research these two dates retain their "Newman number" variety designations. While no longer the Rarity-7 it was in the Ringo sale, this example has remained the finest this cataloguer has ever seen – and is finer than the example used to plate the variety in the book as well. Syd Martin's coin was a Choice VF, and Eric Newman's own example was a VF (though graded there as Fine); the Stack's Bowers archives contain just two examples of this variety, both in low grade.. This brought $2,200 in the Ringo sale, and has been off the market for exactly a quarter century, and we suspect that once sold it will remain in another collection for a substantial amount of time as well.



LOT 1100 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 40-81A, another. 150.4 grains. Choice Extremely Fine, a very sharp coin and of full regal weight range, and is probably one of the top three known for the variety, though not as spectacular as the above example. Boldly struck, and actually showing better since it does not have the planchet striae found on that coin. This is actually the PLATE COIN for both the obverse and reverse dies in the counterfeit book – though the above coin was in better condition, the authors generally tried to plate the example that showed the most detail, which would make attributions easier for new collectors. Rich, dark brown, either side with swaths of a darker color which can be seen on the plate – this appears to all be raised above the surface, and does not appear to be active verdigris that would damage the coin, and the overall look is choice. No marks from circulation stand out, though a glass will pick up an ancient hairline scratch on the obverse armor into the king's neck – but you do really need a glass to notice it. Having this and the above coin side-by-side, it might be difficult to decide which you liked more – which is likely why Neil kept both. The Uncirculated Ringo coin is certainly an amazing grade level, especially for this series, while this one is both the plate coin in the counterfeit book, and sharper overall. Newman chose to use his own example for the plate coin for the variety, which was certainly a grade lower than this. A rare opportunity to be "spoilt for choice" for this variety!



LOT 1101 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 41-81B. 121.4 grains. Fine, some details a bit sharper. Well struck, with the legends and all-important date all bold, the central details fully outlined and with the Britannia figure showing a bit of the finer detail, just not enough for the VF level. Medium brown, the surfaces with a fine roughness and scattered light marks from circulation. A small raised spot on the king's cheek is noted. While certainly well-used, this variety is one that just does not often come nice – the plate coin for the variety in the counterfeit book was just slightly nicer than this, the Ringo coin in the 1998 C4 sale is similar sharpness but had a rougher reverse, the plate coin in the 1988 Newman article was slightly sharper but quite rough, and the one in this cataloguer's collection is about equal. Syd Martin's coin, purchased from this cataloguer was VF detail, but extremely rough. While we are a long way from establishing any sort of Condition Census for the counterfeit series, when the known examples are uniformly lower grade it does suggest that there just aren't a whole lot of better ones out there!

A SHIFT DOUBLE-STRUCK 1781 COUNTERFEIT, AN EXTREMELY RARE ERROR FOR THE DATE



LOT 1102 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 42-81C. 126.9 grains. Very Fine, a lovely coin that was SHIFT DOUBLE STRUCK, a very rare error for this date (the authors of the 1781 chapter in the counterfeit book specifically state "few errors are known"). This is the Mike Ringo coin, and appeared as Lot 416 in the 1998 sale of his 1781's, where it was described as "We are more generous in grading this than Mike, his envelope notes F-VF. Bust shows facial features, complete wreath, reverse has full staff, etc. Light brown, smooth and reflective, with only minor contact marks and a small darker toning spot at the rim right of the date. The legends on both sides show significant doubling." To Tom Rinaldo's description we note an ancient scratch at the neck and bust of the king. GEORGIVS is nicely shift doubled in line, while REX and NIA show the original strike higher and slightly shifted; there is less obvious doubling at the centers, though there is an extra outline at the back of the king's head and Britannia's leg. The detail is just a shade off the plate coin for the variety in the counterfeit book. as well as the Newman plate coin and the Syd Martin piece. The light color, rare double strike, and Ringo provenance (the coin is still in his envelope) should make this one hard-fought by collectors. We note this brought $650 a quarter century ago when it last appeared for sale.



LOT 1103 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 43-81D. 122.4 grains. Very Fine, the reverse closer to an EF grade, the obverse with some unfortunate pockmarks. Full legends and date, and strong design detail, quite a bit sharper than the Ringo or Syd Martin examples in this respect. Dark olive, the surfaces a bit matte like, the obverse with severe pockmarks across the surface, while the reverse is completely free of them (perhaps a coin that spent some time in the ground, the obverse side in contact with moisture while the reverse was not). Both sides have numerous light hairline scratches on the central devices, though these are toned down to the surface color and not as noticeable. This example hails from the Eric P. Newman collection and comes with his handwritten envelope, and was a duplicate in his collection. Long before the Newman coins were sold at auction, Mike Ringo was allowed to purchase a few duplicates from Eric, in thanks for the help he gave in the research and writing of the article on these; Eric's primary coin was a near-EF with lovely surfaces, so this was an easy duplicate for him to sell. It was harder for Mike to decide which to keep for himself, this sharper one with the problematic obverse or the more even Fine that was in the sale of his collection, though being a surface-over-sharpness guy, Mike chose to keep the Fine and sell this one to Neil. Accompanied by Eric Newman's original handwritten envelope, where he had noted M.R. on it, as well as the fact he bought it from the London firm of Baldwin's in 1975; the original Baldwin's envelope is included as well. As Mike Ringo passed away before the Newman sales occurred, there are only a handful of coins that can boast a Newman-Ringo provenance!



LOT 1104 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 43-81D, another. 119.6 grains. Fine. Neil solved the problem of which coin he liked better, the one in the above lot or the one in Mike's collection by simply buying and keeping both, an elegant solution to the problem! This is the Mike Ringo coin, which appeared as Lot 417 of the 1998 sale of his collection, described by Tom Rinaldo as "F15... Olive brown, some raised points lighter, reflective with some microscopic porosity. Well-centered, the obverse close to if not VF. There is a thin but deep scratch on the reverse from Britannia's branch hand to beyond her other elbow, and a far lesser one below that." We note another tiny scratch to the left of the king's eye and a longer one well-hidden along his hairline down from the top of his head. Not bad at all for the variety, also with an exceptional provenance.

PERHAPS THE FINEST 1781 COUNTERFEIT HALFPENNY IN EXISTENCE, EX MIKE RINGO



LOT 1105 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 44-81E. 122.2 grains. Uncirculated, a simply gorgeous example, this is the Mike Ringo specimen which received an entire page as Lot 418 of the 1998 sale of his collection, with massive photographs, though somewhat tersely described there as: "MS63... Essentially a perfect example of this variety, unless you consider the lack of mint red an imperfection. Problem free hard glossy surfaces toned chocolate brown (there is a minute nick on the obverse face). Another coin it is hard to imagine improving, almost certainly the finest known." To Tom Rinaldo's description we add there is also a small nick in the field between the N of BRITAN and the seated figure's neck, which makes it extremely easy to plate match the coin, though it does not detract at all. It is doubtful whether any 1781 or 1785 exists with mint red – these coins would have been darkened after striking to tone that color down, something that would have been very suspicious in commerce a decade after the last British halfpence had been coined. Not noted in the catalogue description is the envelope that accompanies this piece, which notes it was ex-Garrett collection, via Richard August. Most collectors today are unaware that the famed Garrett family collection did include a number of counterfeit British halfpence, as well as evasion coppers. These were in part IV of the auction by Bowers and Ruddy, in March 1981 and appeared as lots 2235-2251 (with the handful of lots before containing an Uncirculated Muttonhead Connecticut copper, two Uncirculated Machin's Mills, and two other Machin's that were called nearly Uncirculated there but are likely fully that grade today)! Unfortunately all but a couple of the counterfeits were unplated, and were in group lots that were not described; if this was in one of those lots, then sharp-eyed specialist August certainly scored. Sandwiched between California Fractional gold and a small group of currency, these were overlooked by collectors then and now, even though there was a Brasher doubloon and the 1792-patterns to close out that auction session. Regardless of where this came from, it is an awe-inspiring example of the variety, with nothing even remotely close having appeared at auction. It is finer than the plate coin for the variety in the book, and much finer than either the Newman plate coin or the Syd Martin coin. More sharply struck than Ringo's 40-81A which was offered earlier in this sale, this may well be the finest 1781 of ANY variety still in existence. Like that coin, this also brought $2,200 in 1998, record prices for any non-Machin's Mills counterfeit British copper to that time. The chance to obtain an Uncirculated 1781 at auction has not occurred since the Ringo sale, and it may well be a quarter century or more before that opportunity comes again.



LOT 1106 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 44-81E, another. 124.0 grains. Very Fine, a lovely coin which while not at the same caliber of the above coin, still merits serious collector attention. Sharply struck, with full legends, date, and all the design detail of a high-end VF, and a coin that would deserve a Choice VF grade if not for several light tics visible on the reverse rim. Those are the only problems of note, otherwise the coin is a lovely dark tan, with hard surfaces, minimal marks in the fields from circulation, and excellent overall eye appeal. Much nicer than the Syd Martin coin which a very rough, heavily scratched Fine. A rare second chance to obtain a nice example of the variety if you happen to be the underbidder on the above lot!



LOT 1107 1781 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 45-81C. Fine, a solid example of this rare variety, which was unknown to both Newman and Ringo when their 1988 article was written. This variety was discovered by Ringo a few years later, though his was not the first example sold, this coin one was – when it appeared as Lot 578 of the 1995 C4 Convention auction, though there misattributed as a 42-81C. A shade sharper than the Ringo coin, though with a deep scrape across the king's cheek, but every detail is strong, including the notable diebreak connecting the base of the VS of GEORGIVS to the top of the head, an easy diagnostic for the variety (a die state progression for this obverse is illustrated in the counterfeit book, though there seems to be no early die state without the break known today). Medium brown with some darker hues on the obverse, the surfaces lightly but evenly rough. Along with the obverse scrape, a glass will pick up some old hairlines on the reverse figure. A difficult variety to find in any condition, the only two nicer ones we recall seeing are the plate example for the variety in the counterfeit book, and Syd Martin's Choice VF which brought $900 earlier this year.

THE ICONIC 1785 VARIETY FIRST ILLUSTRATED BY C. WYLLYS BETTS IN 1886



LOT 1108 1785 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 51-85B. 130.0 grains. Very Fine, an attractive example of the variety, well struck, with the legends and date strong, the very bottom of the first digit slightly off the planchet. Good, solid design detail on either side, including the large and distinct diebreak atop Britannia's head. Pleasing medium brown, the surfaces hard, and though there are some ancient hairlines, they require a glass to see. This is a fitting coin to start off Neil's run of 1785-dated counterfeits, as this is the iconic reverse that was illustrated with a line drawing by C. Wyllys Betts over 125 years ago, in his 1886 publication Counterfeit Half Pence Current in the American Colonies and their Issue from the Mints of Connecticut and Vermont, as his number 4. Betts's paper also included the first illustration of the 1787 Connecticut copper Miller 1.4-WW, one of the 1786 Bungtown Connecticuts, and the extremely rare 1786 counterfeit that is stylistically similar – this landmark paper was also the first to describes some of the Machin's Mills counterfeit halfpence as American-made, explicitly tying them to Connecticut and Vermont copper coinage. In 1981 The Colonial Newsletter did an annotated reprint of the Betts work, which is now available for free on the Newman Numismatic Portal. At the time the annotated Betts was published the existence of the 1785 was unknown, and it wasn't until four years later that Ringo announced the discovery of his specimen, also in the pages of CNL – almost exactly a century after Betts had first described the coin! Since then, more have been found, most of them in England, disproving Eric Newman's assertion that these were made specifically for North America – and because few counterfeits were much-valued by British collectors at the time (one noted English author calling them "album weeds"), they would not have appeared at auction, or in the numismatic literature Newman would have seen. While certainly made in – and for – England, the 1781 and 1785 coins are quite different from other counterfeit families: they are exceptionally well-made, tend to weigh within 20% of regal standard, and while they both have solid die-linkage within each date, there are no mules with other counterfeit series, no odd George-II mules, and no other dates at all to be found in either the 1781 or 1785 family. Both the 1781 and 1785 pieces saw much circulation based on the grades of surviving examples, with Fine probably the average grade for each date. This example is a shade off both the Ringo and Syd Martin coins, the only two of the variety that have been catalogued and sold at auction. The variety was missing from the Eric Newman collection, who used the coin sold in the Martin sale as the plate piece for this reverse in his 1988 article.



LOT 1109 1785 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 51-85C. 117.8 grains. Fine, this is the Mike Ringo specimen, which appeared as Lot 422 in the 1998 sale of his collection where it was described as "Dark chocolate brown, most details of this grade or finer but significantly porous, worse on the reverse where upper details are weak. AN also missing from BRITAN." Actually not too bad for this variety – the only sharper one to sell at auction was the Newman coin, which was a VF but had some raised gunk on the reverse. Syd Martin's was weaker than this, and similarly rough. We note that the 85C reverse illustrated in the book shows similar weakness at the N of BRITAN and Britannia's head. A rare variety, as are all the 1785's, and one that may not exist too much nicer than this – if one did exist nicer, Ringo would have found it!

MIKE RINGO'S NEWMAN 52-85A



LOT 1110 1785 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 52-85A. 145.6 grains. Very Fine, another Mike Ringo coin, this was Lot 423 in the 1988 C4 sale of his collection, described by Tom Rinaldo as: "VF20... Nicer than the example in last year's C4 Sale, and 50% heavier. Smooth and reflective light golden brown, the surfaces display widely scattered very fine pitting, of a sort easily ignored without magnification. The very bottom of the date is soft but all of the digits are clear. NIA also soft but full and clear, the other legends strong. Reverse rotated 320 degrees." A very pretty coin in hand, the light color making up for the miniscule pitting, though we also note a few equally meaningless rim tics. The only nicer one to appear at auction was the Eric Newman coin (which was also the plate coin in his 1988 article); a Choice VF that was bought at that auction by Syd Martin, and sold earlier this year in the sale of Syd's collection, where it realized $2,400.

NEWMAN 50-85A, ONE OF THE RAREST 1785 VARIETIES



LOT 1111 1785 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Newman 50-85A. 103.8 grains. Very Good, a well-worn example of this very rare variety, and though significantly lighter weight than normally found for a 1785, not the example from the 1997 C4 auction that was mentioned in the above lot description. GEOR, RITAN and the NI of NIA are mostly gone, the other letters visible. The date is weak at the first digit, the 8 strong and the top of the 5 there, which certainly makes attribution easier. Design detail as expected for the grade. Lighter tan, the surfaces with a touch of roughness and the expected marks received from long circulation, nothing unusual for the grade. Just a decade ago it was thought that there were only three examples of the variety known, and though the number is probably double that today, it still remains one of the rarest in the 1785-series (and was the last acquired by a collector who recently formed a complete set of varieties for the date). While not the highest grade 1785 in this offering, it may well be the rarest. Purchased from Mike Ringo in 1994, and still in his handwritten envelope.

A CURIOUS 1794-DATED COUNTERFEIT - NEARLY 20 YEARS AFTER THE LAST REGAL COINS WERE STRUCK!



LOT 1112 1794 Counterfeit George III British Halfpenny, Group B Family. 122.8 grains. Very Fine, the weakness at the centers of either side is more from strike than actual wear. A nice example of this ridiculously late date counterfeit – nearly two full decades after the last regal British halfpence was struck at the Tower Mint, and three years before Matthew Boulton began striking copper coins at his Soho Mint in Birmingham; this may well be the actual year these were struck, which is something of a rarity for the counterfeit halfpenny series! Full legends, the date strong and completely on the planchet. Medium brown, the surfaces hard enough, though with some light russet corrosion visible on either side. There is a long but thin striation that transverses the obverse, a shorter one below, and some small planchet flaws. This reverse was paired with two other obverses, one of them a George II mule. Listed in the Cobwright work as an evasion copper, and one of the pieces that supposedly ties the Group B counterfeits to the evasion series, this needs to be reevaluated since this is a standard BRITAN NIA legend, and all three obverses that this reverse pairs with are counterfeit halfpenny dies. It is far more likely that this is just an unusual style reverse with a non-regal date, which was intended to be a counterfeit die all along, especially as the reverse does not pair at all with any evasion obverse die. The Syd Martin coin was slightly nicer, called an EF, and sold for $168; the unusual date makes this and the other two varieties sharing this reverse popular.

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE II IRISH HALFPENCE:

THE EXTREMELY RARE 1745 IRISH/BRITISH MULE - ONE COIN, TWO COUNTRIES



LOT 1113 1745 Counterfeit George II Irish Halfpenny Mule – Irish obverse, British reverse, Non-Regal Irish Date, Rock G2-1745-1. 97.6 grains. Fine, weaker than that at the centers of either side. Slightly off-center towards 1:00 which pushes the first ordinal and the tops of the following letters on that side off the planchet, the A of NIA obscured by some heavy pitting, the rest of the legend all there. The date has the first two digits full, the last two about half off the planchet, but these are clearly a 4 and 5. Easily plate-matched to the piece illustrated in this author's exploration of the non-regal dated Irish halfpence, which was published in The Colonial Newsletter in December 2011 (available for free on the Newman Numismatic Portal). Darker brown, the surfaces matte-like. There are a couple heavy obverse scratches, one across the face, and numerous light marks on either side, and the reverse is rough. Despite the problems, still a presentable example of a very rare mule, with only a three or four of the variety noted – and none were sold in either the Mike Ringo or Syd Martin auctions.



LOT 1114 1789 Counterfeit George II Irish Halfpenny Mule, Non-Regal Date, Rock Unlisted, discovered after publication of the article, now called G2-1789-2. 101.2 grains. Very Good to Fine, weakly struck at the right, with the loss of EX on the obverse, and RNIA on the reverse, the latter also due to centering, which has the benefit of giving a full, strong date. This is the same reverse die used on the G2-1789-1 variety, but with a different obverse, easily identified by the ordinals being further from the head, though with other differences on a closer examination. Lighter brown, the surfaces hard, and though there are a number of light marks and scratches, they don't detract much because of the nice color. An intriguing late-date counterfeit, 7 years after the final regal Irish coinage of this type was struck, yet there are three different 1789-dated dies known, this (used with two George II obverses), a similar one with a George III obverse, and a very crude one used with an equally crude George III obverse, While the date seems a bit shocking to us today, one needs to remember that by this point there were a plethora of Conder tokens in circulation, and that 1789 date would have been commonly-seen on those tokens. While not listed in the original non-regal Irish article, a couple examples have since been found, all in fairly low grade – so this unusual date clearly did not impact their circulation.

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE III IRISH HALFPENCE:



LOT 1115 A quartet of 1766-dated and one 1769-dated George III Irish Halfpence, likely all regal. This first style is often mistaken for counterfeit because the bust is small, with a rather pointed nose, the facial features looking a bit scrunched close to that nose, but this is what the first year of issue regal coins looked like. A better guide is the weight and an examination of letter punches – this issue was authorized at 134.6 grains, lighter than British halfpence, and this also makes people assume the type is counterfeit – but, if the weight is near that mark and the letter punches match known regals, that is what it is. Two of the 1766 coins in this lot fit that description, the first at 138.8 grains, VF, dark olive and slightly rough surfaces but sharp. The second is 137.4 grains, Fine, lighter color but with some roughness and marks. The third matches the letter punches of the first two, though is lighter at 116.8 grains, but grades VG and is lightly rough. Unlike silver and gold coins, coppers were not regulated on a per-coin basis, and there is wide variation between regal copper weights of the same date and die variety, as can be seen in Peck's book, which studied the coins in the British Museum that had come directly from the mint collection. The fourth is dated 1769, a year that saw this and a different obverse bust style both coined. It weighs 110.8 grains, Very Good to Fine, light brown, lightly rough but with all detail there. An interesting study group of a series that has been somewhat neglected, and further research may prove one or more are actual counterfeits. Four coins in the lot.



LOT 1116 A Trio of 1769-dated counterfeit George III Irish Halfpence, all from the popular Simian Family. While the Irish Simian pieces do not have a seated Britannia that displays the "monkey arm," the dies are all hand engraved and with the same lettering style and crude look. The first in this group has an atypical bust style, in the correct general style for the date with short hair. 67.2 grains, Very Good, the thin planchet causing some weakness, but well-worn and with some dings and such. The first obverse letter and the NI of HIBERNIA not visible, the rest there, occasionally weak. Medium brown, not bad, and a scarcer type. The second is the more commonly seen Irish bust style, with long hair that curls down past the neck – this style began in 1775 on regal halfpence, so is a style mule, when paired with a 1769 reverse. 96.2 grains, Fine, lightly rough, a few letters weak, the date sharp, and a pleasing enough circulated Simian. The third is the same incorrect bust type. 79.4 grains, Very Good to Fine, from extremely late die states on either side, with extensive cuds (one of which obscures the last digit of the date but it has been matched to a known die with a date). It's really amazing these dies held together! Because of the die states only a couple letters are visible on either side, but the piece is a nice light brown, and the marks from circulation are minimal for the grade. Three coins in the lot.

A RARE 1771 "IRISH BLACKSMITH" COUNTERFEIT - EXTREMELY CRUDE AND COUNTERSTAMPED



LOT 1117 1771 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny, Blacksmith Style, Non-Regal Date, Rock G3-1771-1. Very Good, counterstamped in the obverse with a large RH in a serrated rectangle. Medium brown, the planchet lightly rough in areas, and with a crack from the king's forehead to the rim. Light marks from circulation, but not bad at all for one of these. Like all the Irish Blacksmiths, this is impossible to grade since they were all sloppily struck, from crudely engraved dies that did not have much detail in them to begin with – these, literally, could have been struck by an Irish blacksmith, though care needs to be made in differentiating them from the Canadian Blacksmith Token series, which has been a problem since Warren Baker included two in his collection of the Canadian Blacksmiths, sold as part of the 1987 Frederick B. Taylor sale. The obverse die here reads GEOION or possibly GEOIGN instead of GEORGIVS, the rest of the legends may be correct, but no surviving example seems to show the full reverse legend. The 1771 date on this one is sharp and fully on the planchet, unlike the example plated in the Rock article in the December 2011 issue of The Colonial Newsletter. At the time of that article there were four known, the count has more than doubled since then, making this the most common of all the Irish Blacksmith varieties – though still rare enough with likely just under a dozen examples extant. In the article it was speculated that this may be a Canadian product, as most of the then-known examples seem to have passed through Warren Baker's hands. The newly found specimens of this variety have come from both North American and British sources, whereas most of the other extremely rare Irish Blacksmith types have come from England and Ireland, so much more research still needs to be done. This "Irish blacksmith" type should be covered in the next volume of the counterfeit book series. Despite just a small number being known, at least two examples are counterstamped, and a third is either counterstamped or has engraved initials in that style. While not the rarity this once was, it is an exceedingly crude and utterly charming example, the type of coin that today's collectors chase with gusto.



LOT 1118 1772 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny, Simian Family, Non-Regal Date, Rock G3-1772-2. 80.8 grains. Fine, slightly sharper than that grade level, with a few gouges and dents. Otherwise quite sharply struck, with full date, a year in which no regal coins were made, and full legends as well – the reverse with an engraving error that has HIBERNEA instead of the correct HIBERNIA; sometimes called an evasion copper because of that, a minor legend fault on a coin that otherwise looks like a counterfeit are likely just an engraver's error. Of the three known 1772-dated Irish varieties, two are Simians and one is equally crude but in a completely different style. Lighter brown, the surfaces hard and despite the post-strike damage still an attractive example of a very scarce variety.

A RARE IRISH TOON HEAD



LOT 1119 1775 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny, Irish Toon Head Family, Dies 1-75A. 107.8 grains. Fine, the obverse details sharper than that grade, the reverse details weaker. An interesting family, the chapter published in the book shows this reverse paired with four different obverses, the textbook definition of a family, with two additional varieties using other dies; a few more varieties have since been discovered. The obverse here is strong, the legend full and the crude bust with its dramatic double chins sharp. The reverse harp is nearly all there, but only a trace of the HIBERNIA legend can be seen; the date is weak but visible. Medium brown, the surfaces with the expected light marks from long use, but nothing too detracting. The Irish Toon Heads are a scarce family, with some die varieties in it quite rare, and the cartoonish style of the king's bust on this variety clearly illustrates the family name.

This example is from the 1995 C4 Convention auction, where it was Lot 597; Neil's annotated envelope calls this "unique, per Mike Ringo" in 2005, and while that is not the case today, the variety has remained rare.

AN UNCIRCULATED 1775 IRISH COUNTERFEIT – AN EXTREMELY RARE GRADE FOR ANY IRISH!



LOT 1120 1775 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny, likely Georgius Triumpho Family. 135.0 grains. Choice Uncirculated, a nearly bang-on regal weight coin, but part of a large family, mostly dated 1775 and 1776, that appear tied to the British GT Family, though further works needs to be done on these. This appeared in the 1995 C4 Sale as Lot 599, and was described by Tom Rinaldo as "Choice Uncirculated. Gorgeous lustrous ebony with immaculate surfaces. Some planchet bubbling near neck obverse and R reverse, but no marks. Crudely engraved but very well struck, all details, though simple, and bold. Cud over V in GEORGIVS, legend large and plain. Bust features pronounced wrinkle at cheek. Die break at base of A reverse and large bold legend. Harp is well engraved and date is very strong. Mostly full dentilation obverse, some below date reverse. An amazingly choice example, perhaps one of the finest counterfeits of all types known, with outstanding color. A premium piece, a perfect coin for the person who wants one type example they never need to upgrade." To Tom's description we add that there actually are some light marks, very tiny flaws that were in the planchet prior to strike, as well as some raised die chips and light breaks. While Tom called this "crudely engraved," it is actually quite well-engraved for a counterfeit Irish copper and the good style, along with full weight, would have doubtless fooled some contemporary collectors – at least one of whom likely preserved this in his cabinet as a genuine example! Mint-state Irish counterfeits of this later bust style are quite rare, and while this is not the finest known today, it is certainly still one of the nicest we have seen.

THE MAGIC "1776" DATE



LOT 1121 1776 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny, likely Georgius Triumpho Family, Moore 26. 77.8 grains. Choice Extremely Fine, much lighter-weight than the above, and a more typical weight for this style. Boldly struck, the legends full though a few letters are a bit weaker than others, and the all-important and magic "1776" date is sharp. The central detail is strong on both sides, the somewhat bug-eyed king with all the detail in his hair and face, and the Irish harp equally sharp. Medium brown, the surfaces hard, a bit glossy, and with minimal marks to them. The 1776 issues were thought to all be counterfeit, as there is no record of that year being struck by the Tower Mint, but when Roger Moore wrote an article giving die varieties for these in the April 2014 issue of The Colonial Newsletter (available for free on the Newman Numismatic Portal), he illustrated a full-weight example with excellent die work that may be regal – though as noted earlier, there was still profit to be made at making a counterfeit that was full weight, as seen in the above example. More research needs to be done on that coin, though this one, at nearly 60 grains lighter than regal is certainly a contemporary counterfeit.

A LOVELY, CHOICE 1782 REGAL IRISH HALFPENNY



LOT 1122 1782 George III Irish Halfpenny, Regal Issue. 137.6 grains. Choice Uncirculated, a boldly struck example, with all the details razor-sharp – every strand of hair on the king's head, all the fine detail in the harp frame, everything. Gorgeous light brown, the surfaces hard, a bit glossy, and with some subtle red and light blue luster, and wonderfully free of marks or damage of any type. The obverse shows full denticles around the periphery, while those on the reverse are less pronounced. A lovely example, clearly saved by a contemporary collector, and well cared-for since. Neil actually bought this as a regal, likely because it was so darned pretty, and it would be an excellent example for a counterfeit collector to own, to have a known regal issue in hand to use to compare with suspected counterfeits of the date and type (and save it from getting slabbed, which will likely happen sooner or later).

A VERY CRUDE 1782 IRISH HALF-PENNY, POSSIBLY PART OF THE GUINEA HEAD FAMILY



LOT 1123 1782 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny, likely part of the Guinea Head Family, which has not yet been published. 97.2 grains. Fine overall. The legends full save for the EX of REX which is weak due to a huge cud opposite those letters on the reverse side, which also obscures the NI of NIA, the date strong. Crudely engraved obverse bust, in a style more reminiscent of the larger style found on the English gold guinea coinage, thus the proposed family name. Large letter and date punches. Medium brown, lightly rough and with scattered marks, including a deeper scratch through the BE of HIBERNIA to the crown. A nicely-crude piece, the family may be published in the next volume of the counterfeit series.



LOT 1124 1782 Counterfeit George III Irish Halfpenny. 90.4 grains. Very Good, some reverse details closer to Fine. A moderately crudely-engraved set of dies, at least for the peripheral legends. The OR of GEORGIVS are much higher than the other letters, the ordinals all lack the lower left leg and are a bit tilted, and the E in REX is missing the top. That same letter on the reverse in HIBERNIA is also missing much of its top. George's bust is passably engraved, the harp on the reverse less so, with the strings thick, the ones at the left incomplete and overlapping. Medium brown, the planchet crudely cut from the copper strip, notably out of round at the top obverse. Just minor circulation marks, and an intriguing piece.



LOT 1125 A Quintet of Counterfeit Irish Halfpence, all the later Type III Bust Style, one undated. Included are: 1) 1775, possible Georgius Triumpho Family. 84.8 grains. Very Good, lightly rough, recolored. 2) 1781, 70.4 grains. Good/Very Good, exceedingly worn, partial legends, though the date is strong, medium brown, no major problems other than wear. 3) 1782, 129.2 grains. Fine, near-regal weight for the grade, but from notably small letter punches, and with a large gap between III and REX with a tiny dot in-between. Pleasing lighter brown, hard surfaces, and a pretty circulated coin. 4) 1782, 112.4 grains. Fine, weak at the king's face and lower left reverse, though the date and legends are full. Cleaned, now an unnatural dark pinkish orange. 5) Undated, though either 1775 or 1776, possible Georgius Triumpho Family. 79.2 grains. Very Fine detail, weak at the top obverse and lower reverse, accounting for the date not being clear. Very dark brown, both sides with extensive pitting but strong design detail, which at least partially mitigates the surface quality. Five coins in the lot.

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE II BRITISH FARTHINGS:



LOT 1126 1733 Counterfeit George II British Farthing. 51.6 grains. Choice Very Fine, reverse closer to full Extremely Fine. A lovely example of this small denomination with the young bust style of George II, here with extremely short ribbon ends, part of a small family that has not yet been studied. Boldly struck, the legends and date full, and nice design detail on the reverse – what you see on the obverse is not as sharp, but is likely all that was actually engraved into the die. The reverse shows very deep clashmarks from this obverse, with the lower part of the obverse bust showing especially strong. Light brown, the surfaces hard and pleasing, and with minimal marks. This was Lot 558 of the 1995 C4 Convention sale, the first lot in a very nice offering of counterfeits, though it was mistakenly called very rare there – it is probably scarce today, though the farthing denomination is certainly seen with far less frequency than the halfpence, and the George II farthings less often than those of George III.



LOT 1127 1735 Counterfeit George II British Farthing, Simian Family. 20.6 grains. Very Good, the reverse a bit sharper, but both sides a bit beaten and battered. The ordinals on the obverse and the IA of NIA on the reverse are gone, the rest of the legends there and mostly strong. The obverse bust partially outlined but weak, the seated reverse figure much more bold, with a full branch and pole arm, which makes it easy to match up since all these dies were engraved by hand and each is unique in the shape, angle, and placement of features. This is handy because the date is only partially visible on this one, but the reverse has been matched to two known examples that show the full 1735 date. Medium brown, lightly rough but not bad, the battering including some dents, which warp the planchet a bit. Very lightweight, close to just ¼ of the authorized regal weight for a farthing – a lighter percentage than the Simian halfpence which are usually a bit under half regal weight, but the farthings were so small and light that many people of the time likely did not notice just how light these were. While George III Simian farthings can be found, the George II Simian farthings are rare – and are seldom found nice. Despite the lower grade, we expect some collector interest in this.



LOT 1128 Undated Counterfeit George II British Farthing, Simian Family. 15.8 grains. Good or a bit better, but weakly struck, the planchet bent and straightened at one point – and at under 20% of regal weight, bending would be very easy to do. Most of the obverse legend is visible, the tops of II REX off the planchet as centered, a diebreak from the E of REX to the head, which may help attribute when this chapter is written. Only the BRI of BRITAN is visible, while NIA is strong, the date off the planchet as centered. Medium brown, with the mentioned bend and light surface roughness, though this is mostly the original planchet quality in the weakly struck areas. Any George II Simian is automatically scarce, and some are quite rare.



LOT 1129 A Trio of Counterfeit George II British Farthings, one of them a mule with a George III reverse. The first is undated, probably a 1736 based on the style, though the date is not visible here, 30.8 grains. Good, only hints of the legends and date visible, dark and a bit rough, a coin that certainly spent some time in the ground. The second is a 1737 young bust, 28.0 grains, Very Good. Only traces of the legend visible on either side, though the date is strong, and the design detail is good. Brassy brown, likely cleaned in the past, with numerous nicks and light scratches from circulation. The third coin is the mule, and while only 177 is visible on this coin it has been die matched to known 1775-dated pieces. 32.6 grains, Very Good, traces of the legend, the design details sharper on either side, especially so on the reverse. Medium brown, lightly rough but not bad, and interesting with extensive die spalling visible in the right obverse field. Three coins in the lot.

COUNTERFEIT GEORGE III BRITISH FARTHINGS:



LOT 1130 1736 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, a mule with a George III obverse and a George II reverse. 54.6 grains. Very Good, likely a grade better, but weak from failing dies. Only a trace of the obverse legend can be seen because of that failure, while the right-facing bust showing this to be a George III obverse has good detail, with extensive cuds and spalling. On the reverse, NIA is weak, but the date is sharp and all on the planchet, and the seated figure is fully outlined. Medium brown, only the lightest roughness and faint marks, and actually pleasing for the grade. On a fairly robust planchet, this would have had the right feel in circulation – and though the obverse and reverse clearly did not go together, that did not stop it from seeing heavy use as currency! Purchased from Mike Ringo in 1995.



LOT 1131 1737 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, a mule with a George III obverse and a George II reverse. 34.2 grains. Fine, a lovely example. The obverse a bit soft, likely from a worn die, but the legend is full and there is some design detail in the bust. The reverse legend is also full, and the seated figure fully outlined, with a diebreak extending upwards from the rear of her head. The date is composed of small digits that start off low and slant considerably upwards with each successive number, the date diagonal instead of in a straight line. Light brown, the surfaces hard, with a bit of gloss and just the minimum of marks. This reverse die is also known with at least two different George II obverses, and is part of a small family that is currently being studied. Quite scarce, as are all of the issues that pair a George III reverse with a George II obverse.

A PLEASING SIMIAN FARTHING - UNDER 1/3 THE REGAL WEIGHT



LOT 1132 1773 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Simian Family. 20.8 grains. Extremely Fine, a really nice grade for a Simian farthing. The legends are full, a few letters weaker than their neighbors, but visible, and the date is strong. Sharp design detail, the obverse bust sporting a chin that Jay Leno would be jealous of, with all the lines in his hair and most of the armor sharp. The seated reverse figure is also mostly sharp, though with bands of slight weakness from die failure visible, most noticeable at both her arms, with much of the pole arm gone due to that failure. The detail in her drapery is strong, as is the teardrop shaped shield by her side, a shape common to the 1773 Simian farthings, but not often seen elsewhere in the counterfeit series. Light brown, the surfaces hard, and a bit glossy. There is a patch of rougher surface at the top reverse, which is actually the original quality of the blank planchet, and no real marks from circulation. From the 1995 C4 Convention auction, where this was Lot 603, in a run of error strikes – this has the reverse die rotated about 330 degrees which may be why it was included in that section, though the rotation was not noted in that sale, and we didn't think it enough of an error to include it in that section of this auction. While 1775 is the most common date for British Simian halfpennies, 1773 is the most common for Simian farthings.



LOT 1133 1773 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Simian Family. 20.6 grains. Strong Very Fine, another choice Simian farthing, also in late die states. The obverse legend is bold, save for the EX of REX which is gone, and the king's bust shows all the hair and armor detail; the detail is quite amazing considering there is a large diagonal diebreak from just above the king's nose, across his face and to his neck. Other diebreaks can be seen at the upper left and top, and what appears to be an extra set of denticles between GEORGIVS and the head. The reverse is similar, with NIA missing, mostly due to die state, the rest of the legend and date sharp. The seated Britannia is strong, with detail in her gown and the teardrop shaped shield. The reverse is also from a late die state, with many diebreaks around BRITAN, in front of the face and around the pole arm. It is amazing that both dies stayed intact without shattering, especially as these ridiculously thin planchets would not have provided much cushioning effect from the dies slamming together in the press. Also from the 1995 C4 convention sale, lot 560, where the cataloguer suggested that it might be of American origin – something long since disproven, and the entire "Crude = American" hypothesis has been tossed on the rubbish heap of history. The Simians were made in England, likely quite late in the 1790s, at which point they would not have found circulation in the United States where the federal half and large cent coinage had already started. Still, the Simians are always popular due to their crude, hand-engraved dies.



LOT 1134 1773 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Simian Family. 29.0 grains. Fine, some areas sharper. The obverse legend full, the reverse with the tops of BRITA off the planchet, the N following those letters gone. The date is weak at the final digit, but it is a 3, and the first digit is an unusual small J. Decent design detail in the obverse bust, weaker at Britannia's head. Pre-strike planchet voids at the center of either side, appearing here as depressions in the metal. Medium brown, light marks from circulation, nothing unexpected for the grade. Nicely crude.



LOT 1135 1773 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Simian Family, Laughing Head variety. 40.2 grains. Very Fine/Fine, the reverse weaker than the obverse. The most common of the Simian farthings, with a distinct obverse bust that appears to be laughing – perhaps at the fools who took this in change (though at nearly double the weight of the previous two Simian farthings, it is at least a bit more deceptive). The obverse legend is full and the king's bust is strong. The reverse legend is full, but BRITAN is much weakened by heavy roughness, as are the first two digits of the date. From an early state of the dies, with a small cud at the GE of GEORGIVS, and before the kidney-bean shaped diebreak appeared on the reverse. This cataloguer wrote an article examining this variety for The Fall 2022 (Volume 30 Number 3) C4 Newsletter, which also looked at the amazing array of error strikes known for just this single die pair. Always popular.



LOT 1136 1773 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, Topless Ordinals Family. 47.6 grains. Very Fine, some details closer to a full EF. The legends and date are strong, the details a bit weak at their absolute centers, but strong enough elsewhere. The ordinals are all topless, and with design similarities to the Topless Ordinals halfpence, so this will prove a larger family than originally thought. This piece has three special features which make it interesting – the V in GEORGIVS is actually an upside-down A, with the crossbar fully visible; BRITAN is actually spelled BRIIAN; and the coin is struck medal turn instead of the usual coin turn. Any of these three would be noteworthy on any other family, but some or all seem to happen fairly often on the Topless Ordinals family. Purchased from Mike Ringo in 1995.



LOT 1137 A Trio of 1773-dated Counterfeit George III British Farthings. The first is from the Topless Ordinals Family, with an inverted A for V in GEORGIVS, as in the above lot. 51.0 grains, Fine, slightly off-center, the tops of ITAN off the planchet. Medium brown, the obverse with a couple light laminations, the reverse significant pock-mark like planchet flaws at the center. The second is a Simian Family. 26.4 grains, Very Good. The obverse die misaligned so that III REX is off the planchet, while the reverse legend is full; date weak, but matched to a known 1773 die. Darker brown, the obverse with some raised green verdigris at the lower part, the reverse cleaner. The final is from a family that has not yet been researched. 54.0 grains, Fine. A well-made counterfeit, with legends and design detail of good quality, the two 7's in the date smaller than the other numbers. A diebreak at the branch gives it the look of a wishbone. Lighter brown, a couple obverse corrosion spots and some light roughness at the weakly struck part of the head. An interesting study group, with three different families represented. Three coins in the lot.



LOT 1138 A Pair of 1774-dated Counterfeit George III British Farthings. The first is a near-regal weight of 63.2 grains, and possibly part of the Slanted Sevens Family, as both those digits are indeed slanted here. Very Good, the legends and date all there, the latter with a blob diebreak at the final digit. Medium brown, evenly rough. The second is 40.2 grains, and is part of the Topless Ordinals Family. Very Good/Poor, the reverse worn nearly indistinct save for the NI of NIA, the date, and the feet of Britannia. Lighter brown, the obverse decent, the reverse with many fine scratches, which were not deep enough to remove metal, so the weakness looks to be from die state. Two coins in the lot.

1775 FARTHING FROM DIES WITH HAND-ENGRAVED LEGENDS



LOT 1139 1775 Counterfeit George III British Farthing. 62.0 grains. Extremely Fine, a boldly struck example, on a planchet of near regal weight. The central details are fairly well executed, the king with excellent detail in his hair and armor. The 7's in the date have the look of Wedge Topped Seven family pieces, but the legends on either side are engraved by hand, not done with letter punches – done in better style than, say, the Simian family coins, but still a bit sloppy. The B in BRITAN either started life as a lower-case "b" and then had a faint upper loop added, or started off with the faint upper loop which soon filled in or wore away, leaving some specimens reading bRITAN; that upper loop is present here, though faint. Medium brown, the surfaces hard and pleasing to the eye, with minimal marks. An interesting die variety.



LOT 1140 1775 Counterfeit George III British Farthing. 50.8 grains. Extremely Fine, from a family that has not been researched, but is fairly common, sporting large digits in the date, and a branch that looks like a wheat stalk. Well-made, on a good-sized, thick planchet, with good design detail. The legends and date are full, the exact centers a bit weak. Lighter brown, and aside from the weak centers, which show the quality of the blank planchet, the surfaces are hard, and with minimal marks. An attractive counterfeit.



LOT 1141 1775 Counterfeit George III British Farthing, from the "Drumstick Sprig" Family, which has not yet been published. 36.4 grains. Extremely Fine, and a choice and boldly struck example. Full legends and date, the design details boldly impressed. The family name comes from the shape of the reverse branch, which does indeed look like a large turkey drumstick, especially when slightly worn. On this higher-grade specimen there is faint detail in that branch, making it look more like the tip of an asparagus stalk – most examples are nowhere near this sharp, so the drumstick appearance is what is more commonly seen. Rich tobacco brown, the surfaces hard, the obverse especially pleasing. A small speck of green on the reverse, as well as a few circulation marks, but a very choice example from this commonly-seen family. From the 1995 C4 Sale, lot 561, where the reverse branch was described as looking more like a hand mirror.



LOT 1142 A Pair of 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Farthings. With the "Drumstick Sprig" reverse type, here more worn and looking much more like those drumsticks. The first is 35.8 grains, Very Fine, mostly sharp legends, with just the X of REX missing from die failure. Heavy die failure both sides, with IVS of GEORGIVS starting to sink, and most of BRITAN appearing incuse as the field around those letters sunk on the die. The latest state we recall seeing for this die pair. The second is from the same obverse but a different reverse, 32.4 grains, Fine. Weaker at the peripheries than the centers, some letters quite weak but all visible, the date stronger. Medium brown, lightly rough, the reverse with raised corrosion spots. Two coins in the lot.



LOT 1143 A Quintet of Better-Grade 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Farthings. Included are: 1) 67.4 grains. Extremely Fine, a heavy and well-made piece that would have likely been indistinguishable from a regal to most of the population of the time. But though the die work is good quality, it is incorrect, with a slightly bug-eyed king, Britannia holding a branch that looks like a wheat stalk, and large digits in the date, the 1 a letter J. Medium brown, choice color and surfaces, minimal roughness. 2) 62.6 grains, Very Fine, slightly off-center, which gives a partial row of large denticles on either side. Full legends and date, the branch somewhat minimalistic with just 5 tiny leaves. Lighter brown, very faint roughness, but a handsome coin, especially with the large, near-regal weight planchet. 3) 41.4 grains. Very Fine, from the same family as the first coin, with a wheat-ear branch and J775 date. Unevenly struck, most details bold, but GEOR gone on the obverse and the AN of BRITAN weak on the reverse. Medium brown, the obverse with numerous light striae and spalling, the reverse hard. 4) 36.3 grains, Very Good to Fine, slightly off-center, pushing most of III REX off the planchet, the rest of the legend and date mostly strong. 5) 32.4 grains. Nearly Very Fine, the legends and date full. George with a bit of an overbite, the reverse with the wheat-ear style branch and J775 date in large numerals. The farthings have been under-researched, and this is a good study group, in nice grades. Five coins in the lot.



LOT 1144 A Quartet of 1775-dated Counterfeit George III British Farthings. Included are: 1) 40.6 grains. Nearly Very Fine detail, RGIVS weak, the rest of the legends and date there, good design detail. A combination of rough surfaces and light damage make the date look like 1755 at first glance, but it is most definitely 1775. Lighter brown, and not a bad looking piece. 2) 54.6 grains, Fine, the branch a bit crude. Full legends and date, generally weak. Dark brown, lightly rough. 3) 34.8 grains. Very Good, sharper central detail, but the legends at the left of either side mostly gone; the date is sharp. Medium brown, lightly rough and with numerous circulation marks. 4) 32.2 grains. Very Good, legends full though the letters at the center left are weaker, the date is full. Dull medium brown, evenly rough surfaces. Four coins in the lot.

A POOR MAN'S "BANANA NOSE"



LOT 1145 Undated (1773 or 1775) Counterfeit George III British Farthings. Simian Family, called a "Banana Nose" style, though "Sausage Nose" would be more accurate. 34.8 grains. Nearly Extremely Fine, a boldly struck example of this variety, none of which have completely clear dates – though this is among the strongest seen, with the final digit weakly there, looking like a 3 or a 5, depending on which angle you hold the coin at. This was Lot 564 in the 1995 C4 Sale, where it was called a 1775 and described by Tom Rinaldo as "About Extremely Fine. Dark brown with lighter highpoints. Pit before cheek and some minor scrapes, none of which are offensive. Strike uneven. A fantastic style, deserving our consignor's appellation of "Son of Banana Nose,' an allusion to a very crude piece with a long nose sold by Bowers and Merena as part of their Schenkel sale. This piece isn't quite so crude as that, but does in fact have a long nose. A great variety, possibly of American manufacture. Very eye appealing. A nice addition to any advanced counterfeit collection and worthy of a premium bid." While certainly NOT American-made, the Simian family was not delineated when Tom wrote this description, which was in an era when anything crude was considered American-made – ignoring the fact that there were bad engravers everywhere, including England. To Tom's description we add that the piece is slightly off-center to 9:00, pushing the tops of the legends at the left off the planchet on either side. The weakness in the date is due to die swelling, which soon completely obscures that area. A very scarce variety, especially with this much of the date showing. The Simian farthings will be covered in the second volume of the counterfeit book series, which may actually settle on a date for the variety.



LOT 1146 A Trio of Undated Counterfeit George III British Farthings. All from the Simian Family, and likely dated 1773, though no dates are visible on the coins. 1) 22.8 grains, Good. Better than that in terms of wear, the reverse misaligned, the obverse weak. Medium brown, both sides heavily dented. 2) 24.6 grains. Good, better than that in terms of detail, slightly off center with just traces of a few letters visible. A vertical diebreak up from the bow on the king's head may make this attributable when the Simian farthing chapter is published. Dark, rough, and on an irregular planchet, all adding to the crude charm. 3) 21.4 grains. Good, very little detail on the obverse, the reverse with the distinct teardrop-shaped shield strong, and just a trace of the legend. Dark and rough. An inexpensive study group of this interesting family. Three coins in the lot.



LOT 1147 A Trio of Undated Counterfeit George III British Farthings. Though most are likely 1775. 1) 38.8 grains, possible Slanted Sevens Family, Nearly Very Fine, well struck with full legends and strong design detail, the last two digits of the date lost to a dent there. Nice light brown. 45.0 grains, Good, well-worn and cleaned in the past, lightly rough. 3) 26.4 grains. Good, slightly off center affecting the ordinals and the date, sharper detail but with numerous light marks and dents. Three coins in the lot.

BRITISH EVASION COPPERS – HALFPENNY & FARTHING:



LOT 1148 Undated British Evasion Halfpenny. Cobwright A.0020/B.0920, Atkins 2, obverse legend ALFRED, reverse legend BRITON'S GLORY, the last word where the date would normally be. 102.4 grains. Very Fine, well struck with all the design detail and legends there. Medium brown, faintly rough, but with no major marks or damage. The British evasion series, sometimes called Bungtowns in the US, is a fascinating adjunct to the counterfeit coppers of the 18th century – made at the same time, by some of the same people, and occasionally with dies crossing between the two series. The evasions were explored in great detail by this writer in The Journal of Early American Numismatics last year, and interested collectors are urged to obtain a copy of that for much background information. While Neil's collection of evasions is not large, and contains no significant rarities, we have elected to list lots individually so collectors can appreciate the diversity of this large series, as well as add inexpensive examples to their own collections. These are listed by both Cobwright and Atkins numbers, books done a century apart, and neither anywhere near complete, but until a new reference book is published, this is all we've got. Both references list the pieces alphabetically by obverse legend – Atkins numbered them, which made it impossible to integrate new varieties, whereas Cobwright listed each obverse and reverse die individually, and the attribution is made up of those two numbers, the letter starting each die number being the first letter of the legend on that side.



LOT 1149 1774 British Evasion Halfpenny. Cobwright C.0170/D.0080, Atkins 55, obverse legend CLAUDUIS ROMANUS, reverse legend DELECTAT RUS *C, date with dot after last digit. 101.0 grains. Fine or slightly better, weak at the centers as often found, but the legends and date strong, and just weak at the obverse bust's face. There are more obverse dies with this legend that have the misspelled CLAUDUIS instead of CLAUDIUS. Medium brown, light marks from circulation, but not bad.

A CLASSIC "EVASIVE" STYLE LEGEND



LOT 1150 1775 British Evasion Halfpenny. Cobwright G.0037/B..0800. Atkins 108, obverse legend GEOBGUIS II ROX, reverse legend BERTANUA, the type of meaningless legend most people associate with the evasion copper series. 130.8 grains. Very Fine, flatly struck at the centers, likely from dies that did not have much detail in them, on a rather robust planchet for the evasion copper series, which tends to weigh in the 90 grain range for halfpence. Lovely light brown, the surfaces hard, though with a couple deep nicks on the cheek and numerous light contact marks. Diebreak through RTA of BERTAN on the reverse. A scarce variety.

A RARE EVASION WITH AN UNUSUAL REVERSE LEGEND



LOT 1151 1721 **British Evasion Halfpenny.** Cobwright G.0170/B.0250, Atkins 147, obverse with bust of George II, legend GEORGE RULED, reverse legend BRITAINS ISLES. 101.0 grains. Very Fine, well-struck, and a nice early-dated example (though still struck a good 75 years after the date it bears). The legends, date, and design detail all strong. Light brown, the surfaces hard, with the expected light marks from both the trouncing sack and actual circulation, but a handsome example.



LOT 1152 1777 **British Evasion Halfpenny.** Cobwright G.0490/Y.0010, Atkins 210, Irish style, obverse legend GEORGE ++ TEL REN, reverse legend YELAHEBTH 87.5 grains.. Good, a well-worn example of a rare variety, only part of the legends visible on either side, which is typical for the die pair, the date all there, though weak. Medium brown, scattered marks including some light scratches. The reverse legend given here is what is listed in Cobwright, though it is more likely the legend reads slightly differently, though no examples are known that show the complete legend. Of the handful known to this writer, most are in quite low grade, so this is a variety one cannot be too picky with.



LOT 1153 1796 **British Evasion Halfpenny.** Cobwright G.0990/B.0060, Atkins 314, obverse legend GODSAVE THE KING (no space between GOD and SAVE), reverse legend BE AS YOU SEEM TO BE. 111.8 grains. Extremely Fine, a well-struck example of this variety, with a very unusual reverse that. instead of a seated Britannia figure or a harp. features a large tree with three crowns in the top foliage, a pair of clasped hands at the trunk, and grassy ground below. This reverse design is different enough that some may consider it more of a Conder token than an evasion copper, but this obverse die was paired with half a dozen different reverse dies, all of which are evasion dies, so while a bit of an outlier, it certainly belongs in the evasion series. Medium brown, no real marks of note, and a pretty example of the variety.



LOT 1154 A Pair of the same variety, Cobwright G.0990/B.0060, Atkins 314. The only duplication of evasions in Neil's small collection, so he must have been struck by this design. The first is 112.6 grains, Very Fine, chocolate brown, a few light marks, but not bad. The second is 107.4 grains, Fine, dark brown, the obverse with a large gouge at the neck, and a few light rim tics and circulation marks. Two coins in the lot.



LOT 1155 Undated British Evasion Halfpenny. Cobwright G.1240/E.0010, Atkins 379. Obverse legend GULIELMUS SHAKESPEAR, reverse legend ENGLANDS GLORY, the last word where the date would normally be. 106.2 grains. Very Fine, a circulated example of this common, but popular variety. The obverse bust looks nothing like any illustration of The Bard, and actually looks more like Oliver Cromwell, dressed as a Roman emperor! The reverse has a seated Britannia figure, though facing the opposite direction than expected, her right arm holding a large medal, her left arm ending in a hook (arrgh, there be pirates), holding what appears to be one of a pair of balance scales. Medium brown, light marks but not bad, the reverse showing clear clashmarks from this obverse die, the only one it was paired with.



LOT 1156 1771 British Evasion Halfpenny. Cobwright S.0040/R.0030, Atkins 434. Obverse legend SHAKESPEARE, reverse legend RULE BRITANNIA. 94.4 grains. Fine to Very Fine, probably of the higher grade in terms of wear, with the usual weak strike. Another Shakespeare bust that looks nothing like him, with a pugnacious face and hooked nose on the obverse, facing left in the style of a George II copper. The reverse has the expected seated figure here in a cartoonish depiction with very thin neck and arms, and a large oval shield by her side. Light brown, surfaces hard to the eye, a pleasing example of the variety.

THE MOST ATTRACTIVE EVASION COPPER REVERSE



LOT 1157 Undated British Evasion Halfpenny. Cobwright T.0040/H.0020, Atkins 444. Obverse legend TVRCVPELLERIVS, reverse legend HISPANIOLA. 112.8 grains. Very Fine, one of the perennially popular evasion varieties, both sides quite distinct and attractive. The obverse has a wild-haired, stern-faced bust with the initials I.K below, while the reverse has a seated figure far to the right, facing a rising sun, and holding an orb of some sort in her outstretched hand; she wears a small feather headdress and has her ear pierced with a large hoop. Unlike anything else in the evasion series, some 19th century authors actually listed this issue as coming from or coined for the island of Hispaniola in the West Indies (containing Haiti and the Dominican Republic). While the obverse legend seems like nonsense today, it was actually used on the first medal struck that depicted an Englishman other than a king, a 1400-1480 medal depicting John Kendal, general of the knights of Rhodes (Eimer 19). The word translates to Turcopolier, an officer in charge of the archers and light cavalry used by the Byzantine Empire during the Crusades. Definitely an oddball, but one of the most beautiful reverse designs in the entire evasion series, and always popular.



LOT 1158 Undated British Evasion Farthing. Cobwright G.0090/B.0160, Atkins 464. Obverse legend GEORGE RULES with left-facing bust of George II style, reverse legend BRITANNIA ISLS, the last word where the date would normally be. 54.6 grains. Very Fine or nearly there, the reverse just a shade weaker than the obverse. The legends full on either side, the obverse bust strong, the reverse seated figure a bit flat. An interesting obverse die, there is a clear curved set of denticles coming out of the bust's throat into the right field, apparently from a denticles gang punch that was somehow smashed into the die, though one that is different than the denticles found on either side of this coin! Light steel brown, the surfaces a bit rough. This variety comes on different planchet sizes, some weighing half this level. There are far fewer evasion farthings than halfpence, both in varieties and in numbers extant.



LOT 1159 1794 British Evasion Farthing. Cobwright G.0190/B.0105, Atkins 482. Obverse legend GLORIOUS HOWE, the H distant from the A, reverse legend BRITANNIA. 36.8 grains. Fine to Very Fine. Standard bust and seated figure designs, with an unusual legend and late date, though probably struck a year or two after that. The legends are full, the date with the 9 gone, the 4 weak but visible (this obverse comes only with this reverse so the date is certain), and good design detail. Late obverse die state with spalling in front of the obverse bust's mouth. Lighter brown, light obverse scratches, heavier reverse ones, but still attractive with the nice color. A scarce variety.



LOT 1160 1771 British Evasion Farthing. Cobwright G.0230/B.0210, Atkins 488. Obverse legend GREGOIVS III PAX, reverse legend BRITAIN RULES. 24.8 grains. Fine, the obverse legend full and the bust with decent detail for the grade. The reverse is weaker, with the AIN of BRITAIN mostly gone, the rest of the legend and date visible, though sometimes weak, the seated figure sharp save for the branch in her hand. Medium brown, the surfaces nice, but the planchet was bent and straightened at one point – easy enough to do when it is this thin, about 1/3 of a regal farthing! A scarce variety.

CANADIAN BLACKSMITH TOKENS:



LOT 1161 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 1, Charlton BL-1. 114.6 grains. Very Good – the Blacksmith series notoriously difficult to grade since most have no legends and were struck from dies that had only partial detail engraved in them to simulate heavy wear. Even a newly-struck coin might have no better than what we would consider VF detail today, so grading is done by surface quality and eye appeal more than strike and wear. The Wood 1 issue comes on some of the heaviest planchet stock for the standard bust/seated figure series, but also comes the most heavily worn. Light iridescent brown, cleaned in the past but retoning, with scattered light roughness and some marks from circulation including hairline scratches. A scarce variety.



LOT 1162 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 5, Charlton BL-4. 77.3 grains. Fine, a decent example of this scarcer variety with an Irish harp style reverse, detail just a shade off the Charlton coin for the variety. The reverse shows extensive cuds around the periphery – though these appear to not be from die damage but actually engraved into the die, perhaps thinking that they somehow made the coin appear older. All known examples show the exact same state of the "damage," with no perfect die states or, indeed, any sort of early die state known, something that seems unlikely to occur of the die had broken, even spectacularly, as cuds would continue to grow as the die was used. Medium brown, two obverse spots, and the surfaces lightly rough. Two curved clips at 4:00 and 6:00 on the obverse. The harp-type Blacksmiths are always popular, and there are only a few varieties with this reverse style.



LOT 1163 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 9c, Charlton BL-24-A1, Lees 3, thick planchet, medal turn. 115.8 grains. Fine, closer to VF in terms of wear, with some post strike damage. One of the more intriguing varieties, a Ships, Colonies & Commerce token that pairs directly into the Blacksmith series, and which comes on thin, medium, and thick planchets, in both coin and medal turns – some of these permutations extremely rare. The ship shows the same detail as the current Charlton plate token, but the reverse is sharper than that coin, with only the ampersand and the first M of COMMERCE weak. Light brown, the surfaces hard and nice save for a number of large gouges at the top of the ship, and a few smaller ones hidden in the waves and at the lower right obverse rim; there is also a small curved dent at the final two reverse letters. While some of the Ships, Colonies & Commerce issues can be found choice, this particular number comes weak, unattractive and, like here, often damaged. This is better than many we have seen, even with the gouges, and was purchased by Neil from Robert A. Vlack. Lees called the variety R-7, and though it is still scarce, it is not a major rarity today.



LOT 1164 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 11, Charlton BL-7. 81.9 grains. Fine, though this is really all the detail that was in these dies, and this shows just as much as the Warren Baker coin (in the 1987 Frederick B. Taylor auction), and the Charlton plate coin. Grayish brown, the surfaces lightly rough and with minor marks, but not unattractive. A fairly common variety, but a classic Blacksmith type, so always popular.



LOT 1165 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 12, Charlton BL-8. 65.2 grains. Close to Very Fine, one of the scarcer types featuring an Irish harp on the reverse, that side with extensive "cuds" around the rims – though like the Wood 5 above, these were actually cut into the die, and not damage that occurred during striking, as all known specimens have the exact same appearance, and this "damage" never grew or changed shape as one would expect from a die that was broken. Detail equal to the Charlton plate coin. Medium brown, lightly rough, and with a couple scratches on either side, which are toned down to the surface color. Scarce, the few varieties with the Irish harp are always popular, and bring a premium

A LOVELY WOOD 13 CANADIAN BLACKSMITH TOKEN



LOT 1166 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 13, Charlton BL-9. 94.6 grains. Choice Very Fine, a lovely example of this common variety. Well struck in the sense that everything that was in the dies is here on this coin, and the color is a pleasing light brown, the surfaces hard to the eye, though a glass will pick up the expected light contact marks, but none that are severe. From the 1995 C4 Sale, where this was lot 623, there called Almost Extremely Fine. This is realistically as nice as the variety comes.



LOT 1167 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 16, Charlton BL-11. 95.0 grains. Very Good, the obverse weak as nearly always seen on the variety, the reverse more of a Fine grade. Very light yellow-tan, a lovely color for these brass issues, the surfaces with light marks as expected for a well-worn issue, but still attractive. Purchased from Warren Baker.



LOT 1168 Canadian Blacksmith Token. Wood 18, Charlton BL-13. 92.6 grains. Fine to Very Fine, again a piece showing all the detail that was in the dies, and equal to the Charlton plate in this respect. Tan with mottled darker hues, a touch of light roughness and circulation marks, but a decent example of this available variety. At first glance thee standard bust/seated figure type Blacksmiths in the Wood 11-18 range seem to be crude – the type of thing that could, indeed, have been made by a blacksmith hammering out some brass discs. But when examined closer, this is clearly not the case. The planchets are impeccably made – perfectly round, consistent diameter and thickness, consistent alloy, and edges nicely rounded. It becomes clear that the pieces in this range were actually produced by someone skilled, the dies purposely engraved to mimic heavy wear, and thus acceptance as currency, and any "crudeness" the coins in the Wood 11-18 range possess was intentionally produced by their maker!



LOT 1169 A Trio of Canadian Blacksmith Tokens. All Wood 23, Charlton BL-40, an issue struck after 1830 by Daniel and Benjamin True, in Troy, New York, all three here struck medal turn, though in slightly different die states. 1) 86.8 grains, Fine, die break at left obverse just barely connected at the area to the left of the bow. V-shaped edge cut at the upper left obverse and a dent at the lower right reverse which shows through to the obverse as a raised bump. Dark brown, lightly rough. 2) 99.8 grains, Fine, the obverse die state a bit later, with the break strong at the left of the bow. Medium brown, curved clip at 5:00 on obverse, light marks across both sides. 3) 98.0 grains, Fine, slightly off-center towards 3:00 which gives a partial set of large, saw-tooth-like denticles at the left obverse and right reverse. Diebreak still further advanced in size. Lighter brown, a number of marks including some light digs on the obverse. One of the most common tokens in the Canadian Blacksmith series, the dies come in a number of different states, on thick and thin planchets, and in both coin and medal turn – one can literally form a collection of several dozen distinctly different types of this single variety. Three coins in the lot.

LOT 1170 A Group Lot of ELEVEN (11) Canadian Blacksmith Tokens. All Wood 33, Charlton BL-37. All grade in the Very Good-Fine range, with scattered light marks, a couple with more severe damage, but overall all are at least average for this variety. Weights range from 84.6 to 95.8 grains. While long-grandfathered into the Canadian Blacksmith series, this variety was actually first listed as an evasion copper several decades earlier (and was listed by Atkins two or three different times, since the legends were not clear). It is a fascinating variety, the obverse modeled directly on a British evasion copper, the reverse unlike anything in the evasion series – or, for that matter, the Blacksmith series. It was likely struck a decade after the last Blacksmiths were produced, and a good 40 years after the end of the evasion copper series, meaning that while this variety is collected as part of both these series, it really belongs to neither. However, with no other place to put it, and the obvious ties to both, it remains part of each. These may have been made in North America – by 1840 there were a number of mints in the United States that could have turned out the large and uniform mintage of this variety, though likely none in Canada. They could have also been made in England and exported – which may be a more likely scenario since a number are known to have been included in late 19th and early 20th century British collections as evasion coppers, and it seems that would have been easier done had the coins been there to begin with. However, most of them did end up in North America, and the late Mike Ringo put together a hoard of 250-300 examples, buying mainly from Canadian and US dealers. The Charlton book errs in stating the VTS on the obverse legend stands for Vermont – these were made well past the point Vermont had become a state, and instead the legend is copied from an evasion copper that read GLORIOVS III VIS, and the legend has nothing to do with Vermont or the United States. This is the most plentiful variety in both the Blacksmith and evasion copper series, but though common, is always of interest because of the mystery surrounding them. Eleven coins in the lot.

THE 67TH ANNUAL HOUSTON MONEY SHOW

Saturday, January 20th, 2024 4:00PM

NEIL ROTHCHILD COLLECTION

OF COUNTERFEIT BRITISH AND IRISH 18TH CENTURY COPPER COINAGE

TERMS OF SALE

- The auctioneer reserves the right to refuse to honor any bid which, at his sole discretion, he feels is not in good faith. The auctioneer may withdraw any lot, without prior notice, for any reason whatsoever.
- The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer shall be the buyer. In case of dispute the auctioneer may at his sole discretion reopen a lot. In all cases the auctioneer's decision shall be final and binding on bidders.
- All sales are payable in U.S. funds immediately upon receipt of invoice unless other arrangements have been made prior to the sale. Lots delivered in state of sale are subject to all applicable state and local taxes unless appropriate permits are on file with us.
- Postage will be added to the invoice of all successful bidders wishing for their lots to be shipped.
- A 20% Buyers Fee will be added to all invoices. Additional 4% charge for Paypal payments (24%).
- Please keep in mind this is not an approval sale. All sales are considered final. Sales to the floor may not be returned for any reason save authenticity. Sales to mail bidders are final unless lot proves to have been misdescribed.
- Lots will be available for viewing by appointment.
- Mail or phone bids will be accepted up through the day of the sale. All bids will be reduced. Lots will open at one bid increment above the second highest bidder mail bidder. Bidding will proceed as competition dictates with the lot either selling to the floor or to the mail bidder at one increment above the second hist bid.
- The consignor may bid or place a reserve bid on their own lots. Any lots repurchased by a consignor will be announced as a pass. Principals of the auction firm may consign or may bid on coins in the sale.

Questions?
CONTACT

Chris McCawley
405-226-5072
cmccawley@aol.com

Lucas Baldridge
972-310-9497
friscomint@live.com



EARLY CENTS AUCTIONS
www.earlycentsauctions.com | info@earlycentsauctions.com
P.O. BOX 6400, Austin, TX 78762
Lucas Baldridge Texas Auctioneer Lic#18106

MAIL BID FORM

I hereby authorize Early Cents Auctions to execute the following bid(s) at the auction to be held January 19th & 20th , 2027.

Please buy the following lots(s) for me at the price(s) not exceeding those shown. The bid(s) is made subject to the "Terms of Sale", and I agree to remit promptly of invoice or notification that the bid(s) is successful. This signed bid sheet constitutes an agreement between me and Early Cents Auctions.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____ EAC# _____

Signature (by signing here your agree to the Terms of Sale).

IF NECESSARY, PLEASE INCREASE MY BID(S) BY:

☐ 10% ☐ 20% ☐ 30% ☐ OTHER _____%

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Mail To:
CVM
P.O. BOX 6400,
Austin, TX 78762

Email To:
info@earlycentsauctions.com

BID SHEET

LOT	AMOUNT



www.earlycentsauctions.com | info@earlycentsauctions.com
P.O. BOX 6400, Austin, TX 78762
Lucas Baldridge, Texas Auctioneer Lic#18106